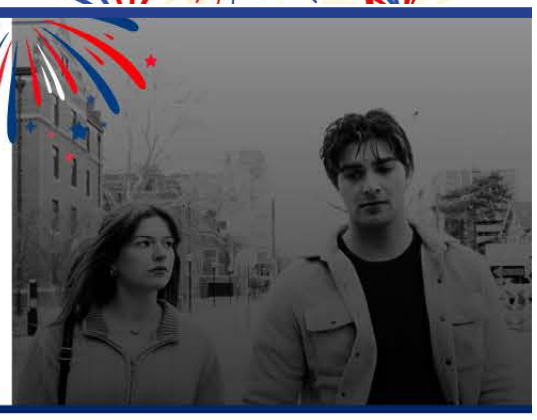
NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

July 2025

Happy 4th of July!



ALUMNUS MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO THE ISLAND WITH A NEW FILM

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 15

BEAVER ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL RECOVERS AFTER STORM

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 19

SENATOR DAMOOSE MAKES AN APPEARANCE AT GRADUATION

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STUDENTS MADE THEIR WAY TO THE BIG APPLE

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 28

TWO TEXANS IN TOWN

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SPONSOR THE KIDS' CORNER

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VIEW PAGE 20 FOR AN EXAMPLE

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

Board President	Angela LeFevre-Welke
Executive Director	Lori Taylor-Blitz
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Phone: 231-448-2254 **Email: editor@beaverislandhistory.org** **Mail: PO Box 295, Beaver Island, MI 49782**

Greetings Readers,

This month we are incuding a guest opinion column.

Newspapers print op-eds (an abbreviation for "opposite the editorial page") as a public service. Quoting Merriam-Webster: "An essay in a newspaper or magazine that gives the opinion of the writer." Their purpose is to stimulate informed discussion and debate—with civility, integrity, and respect. In our specific case, this is in the interest of a better Beaver Island.

Our responsibility at the *Northern Islander*, as the publisher, is to share this forum with individuals of merit and experience—people who have something to say that others may want to hear, benefit from, or even disagree with.

We encourage and invite our readers to submit an op-ed for consideration. If printed, it will not be edited or changed—only typos and grammar will be corrected.

We also welcome letters to the editor—not as long as an op-ed, but feel free to comment on any article you see in the paper.

Elsie Burton
Editor of the *Northern Islander*

GUEST OPINION COLUMN

PEAINE TOWNSHIP GRAPPLES WITH BALANCING FREE SPEECH AND PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

Peaine Township faces a complex conflict between an appointed official's constitutional right to personal expression and the community's expectation of impartiality and integrity in public service. While firmly respecting First Amendment principles, we believe the elected township board also recognizes the responsibility to condemn hate speech and ensure that government representatives uphold values of fairness and equality.

At the center of this debate is the Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), whose recent Facebook post has sparked widespread outrage. In the post, he wrote: "…Not all Jews are evil business people, but most are Jewish Supremecists [sic] who see non-Jews as lesser people they have a Divine Right to extort. Many Jews are Racists. Its their religion that turns them to be so…just like Islamists, except less physically violent, and more monetarily manipulative." These remarks have raised serious doubts about his ability to serve without bias, given the ZBA's role in adjudicating land-use disputes that impact residents and businesses.

During a two-hour Peaine Township Board meeting on June 17, attended by the township attorney and a dozen concerned citizens, residents emphasized the incompatibility of such views with public office. Many attendees argued that allowing the official to remain on the ZBA risks normalizing hateful rhetoric and undermining trust in local government. Significant attention was also given to how appointments are made and the process followed.

While the Board acknowledged the legal complexities of balancing free speech with accountability, no decision was reached. Officials are proceeding cautiously, consulting legal counsel and deliberating the ramifications of potential actions.

The community's stance is clear: Retaining an official who espouses bigoted beliefs—particularly those targeting religious and ethnic groups—sends a harmful message that Peaine Township tacitly condones such views. Residents urge the Board to prioritize integrity and inclusivity in governance, ensuring that appointed leaders reflect the values of the community they serve.

As this sensitive issue unfolds, the township's commitment to justice, equity, and the rule of law will be put to the test. The outcome will set a critical precedent for how small communities navigate the tensions between individual rights and collective responsibility in public office.

Submitted by Carol Burton, Vicky Fingeroot, Pam Grassmick, Susan McDermott, Sally Rehkopf, and Karen Turnbull

PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

WHY MUSEUM ADMISSIONS, DONATIONS, AND MEMBERSHIPS ARE MORE NECESSARY NOW THAN EVER

In a time marked by global uncertainty, rapid technological change, and increasing cultural division, museums stand as vital guardians of history, art, science, and identity. Our Museums are facing unprecedented financial pressures. As public funding shrinks and operational costs rise, museum admissions, donations, and memberships have become not just helpful but essential for our survival and continued relevance. Here's why your support matters now more than ever.

1. PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Beaver Island Historical Society Museums are stewards of irreplaceable artifacts, artworks, and archives. These collections require climate-controlled environments, conservation efforts, and skilled professionals to ensure their preservation. With public funding often falling short, private support fills the gap. When you pay admission, donate, or become a member, you're directly contributing to the care and safeguarding of our shared heritage. Examples include Maritime History of the Archipelago at the Marine Museum, Native American, Women's, Strang and Irish history at the Print Shop and restoration work at the Islands cultural sites such as the Protar Home and Beaver Head Lighthouse.

2. EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Our museums offer more than displays—they educate. From school partnerships, Kids Camp and guided tours to workshops, lectures, and outreach programs. Museums help people of all ages learn and grow. Because we are a "Museums for All" site we also serve underrepresented and marginalized communities through free or low-cost initiatives. Memberships and donations allow these efforts to continue, especially when grant funding is unpredictable or competitive.

3. COMBATING MISINFORMATION WITH FACT-BASED LEARNING

In a world saturated with misinformation and polarized media, museums serve as trustworthy spaces grounded in research, scholarship, and evidence. They provide context to current events, encourage critical thinking, and promote informed dialogue. Supporting museums is a powerful investment in truth, education, and civic responsibility.

4. SUSTAINING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Museums are not static; they are dynamic, evolving spaces that champion innovation in the arts, sciences, and humanities. From interactive exhibits and digital expansions to artist residencies and new acquisitions, our Museums thrive on creativity. Admissions and member support help fund new exhibitions, expand collections, and push boundaries that inspire future generations.

5. TOURISM AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

The Beaver Island Museums are economic engines for our community. They attract tourists, create jobs, and support local businesses. When you support a museum—whether as a local visitor or a traveler—you're also supporting the wider economy, especially in cities and towns trying to bounce back from economic downturns.

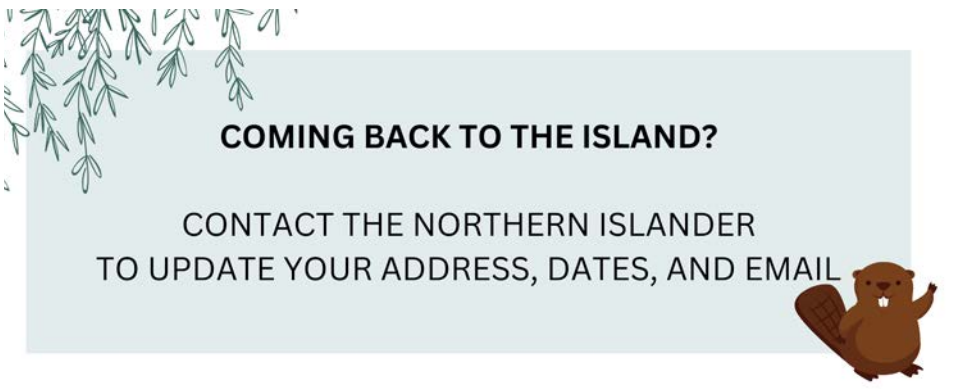
THE BOTTOM LINE

Our Museums are not luxuries—they are pillars of civil society. They preserve the past, illuminate the present, and shape the future. The Beaver Island Historical Society needs your help.

Whether it's buying an item from our gift shops, renewing a membership, or making a donation, your support helps keep our museums vibrant, accessible, and resilient. Especially now, when challenges are great and cultural institutions across the nation are under strain, your involvement makes a lasting impact.

If you believe in education, diversity, history, art, science, and community, consider supporting the Beaver Island Historical Society. Because when we invest in museums, we invest in ourselves.

Please visit us online at https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/, call 231-448-2254 or stop by the museum to learn more about how your support matters and the perks of being a member of the Beaver Island Historical Society.



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SMALL FINDS, BIG STORIES: HOW ONE MAN'S TRASH BECOMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURE

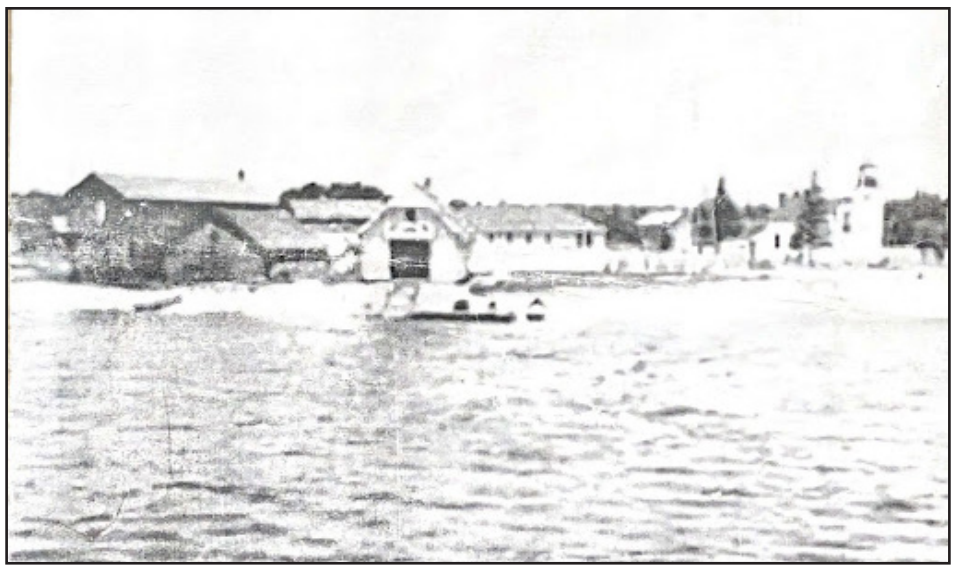
By Anna M. Seebeck and Benjamin J. Brock

Consider the number of small and seemingly insignificant items you have misplaced or discarded throughout your life. From buttons to spare change, we rarely think twice about the physical minutiae of day-to-day living. However, in the eyes of an archaeologist, these trivial objects can hold incredible significance hundreds of years later.

Northern Michigan University's archaeology field school took to Beaver Island between May 17 and June 14; a handful of students, including ourselves, participated in Dr. Scott Demel's continued research of the Alva Cable Trading Post (ACTP). Among the many artifacts found, the smallest of which proved to be the most memorable.

More often than not, the items that give us the most insight into the past are the small forgotten things. Dateable objects, referred to as diagnostic, come in all shapes and sizes. In Unit 15 at the ACTP site, an unassuming rubber button was discovered nearly 20 centimeters beneath the surface. This button is printed with the words "Goodyear 1851, N.R. Co". From this, we were able to discover that the items in that layer of soil can be assumed to be of similar age or older. This assumed date for the level can be used to infer the ages of other artifacts within the same stratigraphy, including non-diagnostic items like undecorated whiteware.

Photo taken of a Goodyear button by Krissa Harrald 2025.



Historic Alva Cable Trading Post photograph submitted by Scott J. Demel.

The change in our pocket is an indicator of our country, our culture, and our time. Such factors would make it evident that an archaeologist, like us, would be excited to find a coin from the site. While a number of coins have been found while excavating the ACTP site, one coin raised more eyebrows than normal. Found in the lower levels of Unit 11A, a circular piece of copper was pulled from the dirt. In the field, it was hard to tell exactly what we were holding but it became evident in the lab. Through a process called electrolysis, cathode and anode wires are used with the solution of water and baking soda to "electrify" the rust and corrosion off a metal artifact. Through a repeated process of this cleaning and careful scraping and picking under a microscope, the diagnostic details of the coin can be revealed. In this case, the noted Indian Head cent created a date range of 1859-1909 that was used to consider further context of the unit's age.

While these objects may seem insignificant for the constructed history of a site like ACTP, personal items that we may consider garbage provide a much-needed insight into the people and history of Whiskey Point. So, before you discard a piece of your shirt or some scraps from your wallet, think of future archaeologists and what they will write about your life and the livelihood of Beaver Island.

Author's Statement: Anna M. Seebeck is a student of anthropology and geographic information systems and technologies at Northern Michigan University. This year, 2025, she studied and worked on Beaver Island through the archaeology field school directed by Dr. Scott J. Demel.

Author's Statement: Benjamin J. Brock is a student of anthropology and history at Northern Michigan University. This year, 2025, he studied and worked on Beaver Island through the archaeology field school directed by Dr. Scott J. Demel.

2025 Beaver Island Historical Society Upcoming Events

AUGUST 11 — Music on the Porch
Join us on a Monday for an evening of Island Music. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy our island favorites! Event starts at 7 pm.

AUGUST 15-16 — 2025 Film Festival
The BIHS presents its 2025 Film Festival. All films are Michigan Made and the producers will be presenting their respective films and chatting with the audience. Evenings at 7 pm and Saturday Matinee time TBD

AUGUST 17 — Beaver Head Lighthouse Open House
This Place Matters Picnic and tours. Event starts at 1 pm.

SEPT 26 — ANISHINAABE TRADITION AND CULTURE VIEWS
Introduction to Great Lakes Anishinaabe way of life and traditional ways of Anishinaabe that live on today. Event starts at 7 pm.

OCT 13 — History of LTBB and GTB Tribes
Learn how these two sister Tribes govern themselves and the history of how they became sovereign. Events starts at 5:30 pm.

DEC 5 — Holiday Social
Join us for the Annual Holiday Social. The museum will be adorned with holiday decorations, so come see us and enjoy. Event starts at 6 pm.

https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop/
For more information visit the site

SAVE A LIFE-DONATE BLOOD

By Connie Wojan and Lisa Gillespie

Nothing beats the good feeling that comes with knowing you have saved someone's life!

Your chance to enjoy that feeling will be at the annual Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive which will be held on Friday, July 25, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Gregg Fellowship Hall. Once again, the friendly and skilled nurses from Versiti Blood will be coming to Beaver Island excited to collect the many units of blood needed during the summer months. For decades Beaver Island residents and visitors have gained a great reputation for donating in large numbers. It will take both new and faithful previous donors to make our goal. So look for posters and social media postings for more details. The Versiti staff works hard to process donors quickly and we promise the home-made treats will be delicious!

Please join us on July 25!

JIM RIEHL'S FRIENDLY FORD OF CHARLEVOIX

FREE DELIVERY TO BEAVER ISLAND

NEW! UP TO $4050 IN REBATES

$48390

2025 FordF-150 STX Truck SuperCrew Cab V-6 cyl 4x4

NEW! EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT FOR ALL

$35149

2025 FordMaverick XLT Truck SuperCrew I-4 cyl AWD

NEW! UP TO $3500 IN REBATES

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2024 FordBronco Sport Outer Banks SUV I-3 cyl 4x4

'16 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW

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$10500

'21 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW

$40000

'22 FORD RANGER SUPERCREW

$32750

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Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Bonnie Keie's Creamy Baked Chicken Breasts

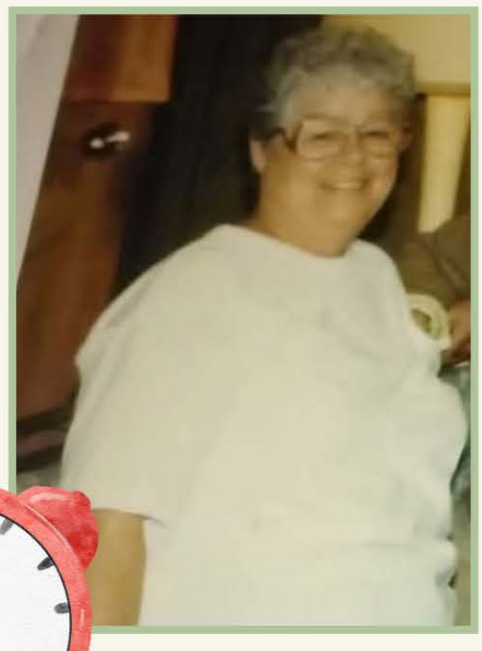
Submitted by Rach Becker

EACH MONTH, WE WILL BE FEATURING RECIPES THAT ARE SURE TO HAVE YOU COMING BACK FOR SECOND HELPINGS. THE RECIPES THAT WE GREW UP WITH AND STILL MAKE TODAY.

Bonnie Keie and her husband, Bud, came to Beaver Island from Charlevoix after retirement in the 1980s. They lived on Beaver Island until sometime in the early 1990s.

They were friends to many, including Helen Pike, Madonna McCafferty, and Emma Jean Belfy, among others. Bonnie could sing beautifully.

Blasta! (Irish for delicious)



Ingredients:
4 whole chicken breasts, split
8 slices of Swiss cheese
1 can of cream of chicken soup
1/2 of a soup can full of milk or chicken broth
1/4 cup dry white wine, optional
1 to 1 1/2 cup stuffing mix, crushed
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

Arrange chicken in a lightly greased 13x9 inch baking dish. Top with cheese. Combine the soup and wine, stirring well. Spoon sauce over chicken, sprinkle with stuffing mix. Drizzle butter or margarine over crumbs. Bake at 350° for 45 to 55 minutes.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Building a Strong Tomorrow on BEAVER ISLAND.

What better way to impact the future of **Beaver Island** than to invest in our youth? The Charlevoix County Community Foundation has options to support the Beaver Island Community School or individual students through your gift to:

- **The Beaver Island Endowment for Student Success**
- **The Beaver Island Scholarship Endowment**

Give to any of these funds through our Giving Hub

The **Caitlin Boyle Endowment for Student Success** was established to honor the life of Caitlin, who grew up on Beaver Island, and her legacy of giving back to her community.

www.C3F.org | 231.536.2440

BEAVER ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY 17, 18, & 19 of 2025

TICKET INFORMATION

bimf.net | (231) 330-9945

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Island Airways | (800) 524-6895
Beaver Island Boat Company | (231) 547-2311

CAMPING INFORMATION

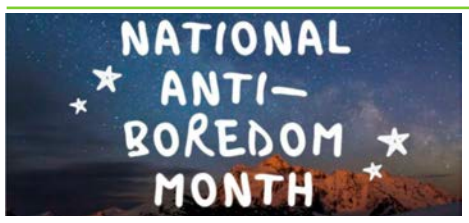
Beaver Island Hideaway Campground
28599 Hideaway Trail, Beaver Island, MI
Open Monday - Monday
Family Camp and General Camp Available
FREE Camping with Festival Pass

2025 LINEUP:

Audrey Dupuis
South for Winter
Birdie Country
The Whiskey Charmers
Jonathan Plevyak
The Real Ingredients
Carver Commodore
Katy Gullian and the Drive
Nathan Walton and the Remedy
Heat Above
Distant Stars
Smilo and the Ghost
G-Snacks
Paul Lamb
Joe Bockheim
Chistopher 'Wink' Winkleman
Dave Boutette and Kristi Davis

Beaver Island District Library

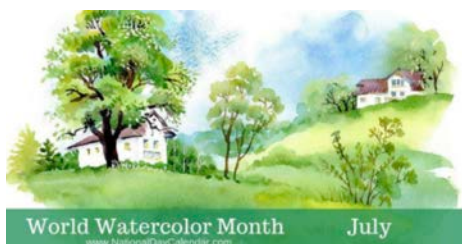
Nibwaakaawin



Finding creative and healthy ways to beat boredom will improve your life!

Some suggestions are:

1. Play a board game with others, fun outside games
2. Get Physical (Exercise)
3. Learn - read a book (from the library!), visit a museum or take a class
4. Clean - everyone has a closet or drawer that needs cleaning.
5. Cook - we have a lot of cookbooks at the BIDL
6. Be creative - we have many ideas at the library
7. Volunteer -even just to water the plants at the library weekly!
8. Get Social - join a club (such as our BOBI book club), visit with elatives



Celebrate World Watercolor Month and learn a new skill!

The library has many books and DVDs to teach youself, or you could attend a class! Plein Air with the Gallery will be on July 15. Sign up before July 8 at the library or Gallery.

2025 THEME: WE BELONG HERE AND WE'RE HERE TO STAY

Celebrate by connecting (spend time learning from people with disabilities), Learn the history and culture of disability pride, and Advocate by emailing elected officials to support those with disabilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

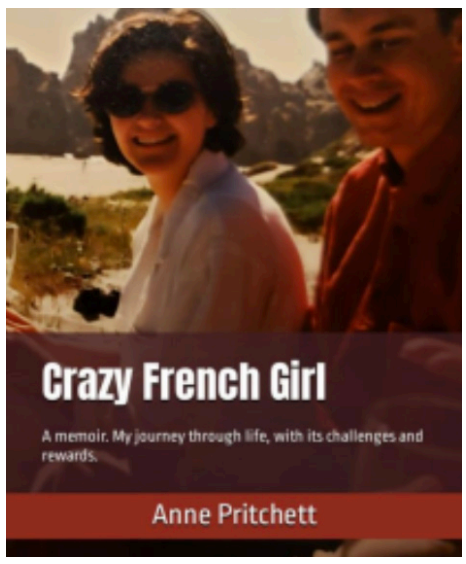
July 10 at 7 p.m.
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
PADDY AIDAN

Aidan works in oil, charcoal, and graphite to create sensory experiences and immersion in nature. The movement of sky, power of water interaction of color and balanced composition are central to her process. She will present some of her work while on the Island at a gathering on July 10.

July 15 at 10 a.m.
PLEIN AIR ON THE ISLAND

Join us for a day of outdoor watercolor painting (it is World Watercolor Month and our summer reading program theme is Color Our World). Sign up at the Library or at The Gallery before July 8! We need to know how many to prepare for. Kids are invited also!

July 21 at 11 a.m.



Anne Pritchett, *Crazy French Girl*, Summer resident, Anne will talk about her memoir.

July 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Jim Gillingham, *From American Toads to Watersnakes: The Amphibians and Reptiles of the Beaver Archipelago*.

Dr. Gillingham, retired Director of the CMU Biological Station on Beaver Island and expert in Herpetology-amphibians and reptiles, will present his latest book about the herps on Beaver Island. Book Signing also.

August 5 at 7 p.m.

Chris Thelen - *Islands of Deception and Race to Redemption*.

Chris recently completed the second book, *Race to Redemption* in his series set partially on Beaver Island.

August 7 at 7 p.m.

Artist in Residence Elizabeth Claire Rose's work blends the boundary of the printed multiple through printmaking, photography, and collage. Currently she works in creating work informed by ecological patterns in native plant communities.

GREAT NEWS! Through a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, we will be able to offer Fiero Code Club for another year! Sign up to join the club and meet with us on Saturdays at 2 p.m. Ask at the library for more information.

The summer coding challenge from Fiero Code is a Cosmic Art Gallery Contest. Participants will use several different coding languages. There are three levels of competition and multiple prizes offered. In addition, those participating through BIDL will also compete for one of three prizes!

Contact the Library if you are interested! Contest ends July 31.

COSMIC ART GALLERY
CONTEST PRIZES
1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place
Adult Prize
amazon
Airpod 4
JBL Flip 5
Redragon Mechanical Keyboard
$150 Amazon Gift Card
MiLibraryQuest
June 16 to July 31
MiLibraryQuest
Paintings have been stolen from museums across Michigan! The subjects of the paintings have come to life to leave you some clues to where they've been taken and who might have done it. Can you catch the thief?
Teens, you are invited to solve riddles, take part in the quest, and enter to win a prize from your library.
Visit:
mi.gov/MiLibraryQuest
or scan to get started!

Complete the quest and win a prize!

KIDS' STUFF

Beyond the Pages is our summer program for kids of all ages. Join us every Wednesday for story time, arts and crafts. At 10 a.m., kids age 3yrs & up, along with their parent or caregiver, are invited to listen to Ms. Tara read a book and everyone will create a craft to take home. At 11 a.m. kids age 10yrs & up are welcome to create a more in-depth craft or art project to take home as well.

Babies & Toddlers is continuing every Tuesday at 10am. Indoor or outdoor play for kids age 3yrs or younger. Parents and/ or Caregivers get to socialize as well. Fun is had by all.

Teen art night is back by popular demand. Teenagers are welcome to create an amazing art project led by some of our local talented artists. Stop by July 28 at 7 p.m. and August 8 at 7 p.m.

COLOR OUR WORLD

All ages, including adults are invited to participate in this year's Color Our World Summer Reading program. Reading Bingo for various age groups will earn a prize from our collection of prizes. Stop in to find out more. Fiero Code's Challenge Cosmic Art Gallery aligns with the program too! Other activities will be available that relate to the theme Color Our World. Stop in to see all we have to offer.

BOOK CLUB LOVERS!

Our July meeting will discuss Eddie Winston is Looking for Love by Marianne Cronin. It is scheduled for July 16 at 3 p.m., and a Zoom link is available too. Contact the library for access to the zoom link.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need people willing to weed, and water our gardens, weed whack select areas, and help at events. Contact the library if you are willing to help us out!

GRANT RECEIVED!

The Library has received a grant to upgrade some of our technology (new computers), offer coding classes and cybersecurity programming for the staff and community. We are very excited to get started.

Another tech upgrade will be our connecting with Merit for internet service.

Phone number: 231-448-2801

BEAVER ISLAND'S NELLIE JOHNSON SCHOONER AND THE GREAT LAKES PIRATE

By Michael S. Franck

While growing up, I remember a painting of the Nellie Johnson schooner in my maternal grandparents' house. My great-grandmother, Mary Johnson (1886-1969), worked on this vessel when she was a young woman. Her duties included cooking for a hungry crew and mending the fishnets. The 50-ft schooner was owned by Marys' father, Captain John Johnson (1851-1903). A portrait of Captain Johnson is on the second floor of the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum.

Not much else was said about the painting after I inherited it from my mother. Several years later while browsing in a bookstore I noticed a book titled "The Scourge of Captain Seavey, the Great Lakes Pirate" written by Karl Manke from Owosso, Michigan. While glancing through the book's pages, I was surprised to see the name of a schooner called Nellie Johnson. No one in my mother's family ever knew or mentioned the following story that took place in the early 1900s.

On the evening of June 11, 1908, two seamen of the Great Lakes, Captain John McCormick and Captain Dan Seavey, met on-board the Nellie Johnson in the small-town harbor of Grand Haven, Michigan.

McCormick was the schooner Captain of the Nellie Johnson, a 50-ft vessel that was originally owned by Captain John Johnson from Beaver Island, Michigan. Seavey, known as Roaring Dan Seavey", was a big man who was known as a fierce drinker and barroom brawler. Both men knew each other from years past.

In the maritime folklore of the Great Lakes, Seavey was the only person who was ever branded as a pirate. Seavey had an infamous reputation for stealing and capturing vessels on the Great Lakes. His 42-foot, two-masted schooner, The Wanderer, raided the docks of small towns along Lake Michigan and was notorious for wrecking ships by altering sea lights; either by existing lights or placing false lights. This trick known as "moon cussing", caused ships to sail into rocks, where Seavey and his crew could easily remove cargo from the damaged vessel. A significant amount of Seavey's profit also came from venison poaching.

On that evening over a century ago, Seavey's ship docked near the port of Grand Haven. While in town, Seavey spotted a fine-looking schooner, the Nellie Johnson, in the town's harbor. He could tell the vessel was weighed down with a precious cargo of cedar logs waiting to be sold in Chicago. Seavey brought aboard jugs of whiskey that he offered to share with Captain McCormick and his crew. According to some reports, there may have been an old score to settle. According to others, and Seavey himself, speaking with authorities some weeks later, said he was a mere sailor on McCormick's ship.

Once the crew and McCormick became intoxicated, Seavey hijacked the Nellie Johnson and left behind a drunk Captain and crew. He then sailed to Chicago to sell the cedar logs on the black market. Reaching Chicago, Seavey ran into trouble—he couldn't sell the timber, and he was at the far end of Lake Michigan with a boat that wasn't his. As news traveled around the Great Lakes, the United States Revenue Cutter Service soon gave chase. In the meantime, Seavey moored the Nellie Johnson and was again sailing the Wanderer. After several days he was captured on June 29, 1908, and taken to Chicago for trial.

Newspapers reported that Seavey was arrested on the charge of piracy. However, he was charged with "unauthorized removal of a vessel on which he had once been a seaman". Seavey was released on bond and the charges were later dropped when the owner of the Nellie Johnson failed to appear.

At the end of his career, Seavey accepted a position with the United States Marshals Service, where he worked to curb poaching, smuggling and piracy on Lake Michigan.

Seavey retired in the late 1920s and settled in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. He was known to be a religious man and was often seen carrying a bible—a stark contrast to his earlier life and the legends of the "Great Lakes Pirate".

For the rest of his life, Seavey maintained that he won the Nellie Johnson in a poker game. He died a poor man in a nursing home on 14 February 1949, at the age of 83. He is buried next to his daughter in Forest Home Cemetery, Marinette, Wisconsin.

"ROARING DAN SEAVEY" – OCCUPATIONS
Sailor, fisherman, farmer, saloonkeeper, prospector, U.S. Marshall, thief, poacher, smuggler, boxer, procurer, hijacker, Great Lakes pirate

VESSEL NAME: Nellie Johnson
YEAR OF BUILD: 1894 at St. James, Beaver Island, MI
Greatlakeships.org (official number 130667)

VESSEL TYPE: Schooner
HULL MATERIALS: Wood
BUILDER NAME AND OWNER: Captain John Johnson, Peter Johnson and Johnson family, Beaver Island, MI
NUMBER OF MASTS: 2

HULL DIMENSIONS:
Length: 51.8'
Beam: 18'
Depth: 4'
Tonnage (gross): 41
Tonnage (net): 39

Picture of Dan Seavey.

CHRONOLOGY OF VESSEL

- Dec 3, 1901, sprang a leak on leaving Charlevoix, MI with a load of peas; towed back to Charlevoix by a life-saving tug.
- 1903, carried two miles of rails to Beaver Island Lumber Company's narrow-gauge railroad. Captain John Johnson died on Beaver Island. His death was caused from a head injury while cutting boards at the sawmill.
- 1907, owned by Peter Johnson, St. James, Beaver Island.
- 1908, owned by Captain R.J. McCormick, stolen by Captain Dan Seavey and his crew on the evening of June 11 in Grand Haven, MI.
- 1917, abandoned on the Betsie River near the harbor of Frankfort, MI.

SOURCES:

- Captain Dan Seavey, Wikipedia "Pirate of the Great Lakes", Hour Detroit Magazine, Oct 25, 2016.
- "The Scourge of Captain Dan Seavey, The Great Lakes Pirate", written by Karl Manke.

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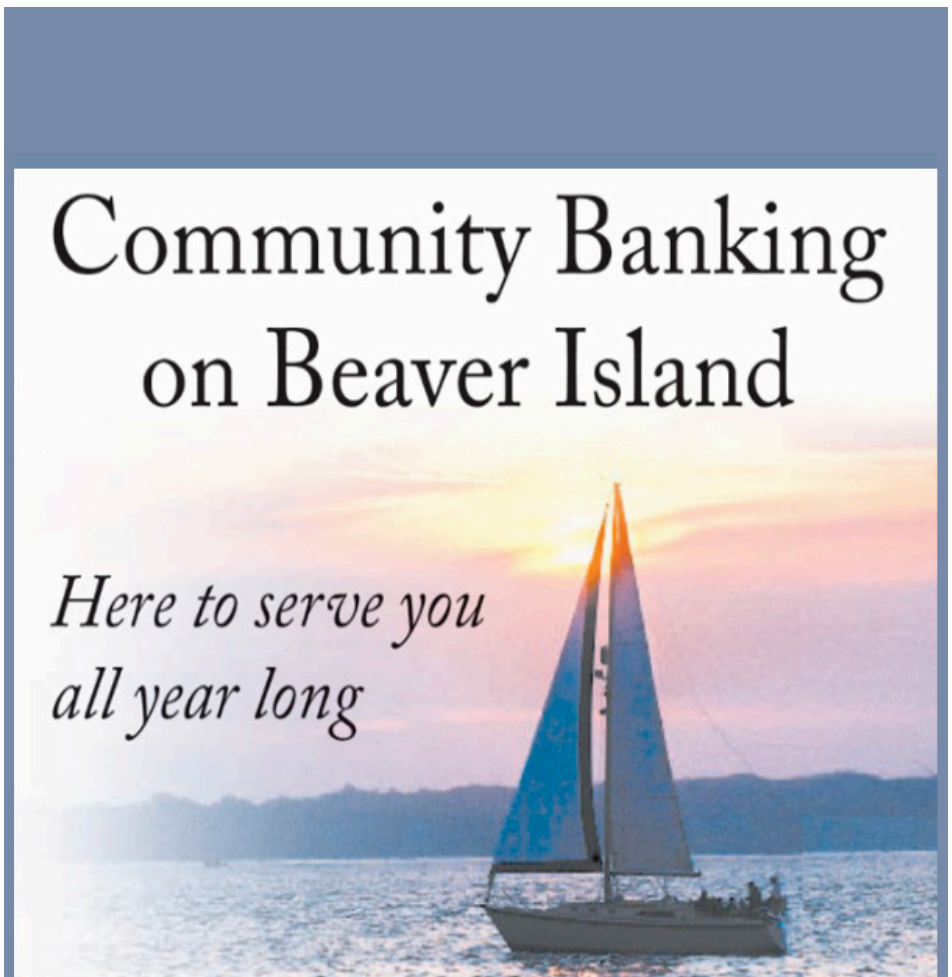

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ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH GINA MANGRA

By Michelle LaFreniere

I so enjoyed my visit with Gina Mangra, I interviewed her twice! Our first visit was a couple of weeks before the last one. When I sat down to type up the interview, my entire file had been lost. It was devastating, but it gave me the opportunity to visit Gina again. This time, I drove down to her home on Lake Geneserath. Over breakfast sandwiches, coffee, and puppy kisses, we had a great visit.

I had a fantastic tour of her property and home. So many cool things to see: beautiful flower beds, bright red rocking chairs on the deck, and raised beds for mushrooms. She has fashioned her own fences with downed branches, and has large tree stumps inoculated with mushroom spores. How she finds the time to maintain all this baffles me.

In 2018, Gina came to the island as a guest of Steve and Kristy Banghart. She loved it so much that she came back the next year with them. After the second visit, she knew she had to stay longer. In 2020, she rented a cottage on Lake G for the summer. It was there that she met the McAllisters. They knew she was looking for just the right home to purchase, and they were looking to sell. They invited her over, and that was that. Gina's husband, Scott, told her that if she loved it, she should buy it. He hadn't even visited the island yet, but Gina just knew he would love it here. She was not wrong.

Gina is a busy gal and a real asset to our island community. One of her many titles is Loon Ranger for Lake Geneserath. She keeps watch over two loon pairs. We talked about one pair's empty nest this year. They nested twice, and both times the eggs were compromised. Gina had hoped they would try again, but they did not.

While sitting in her living room, we watched many bird species visit her feeders. She knew each one. Recently, a Great Egret visited, which is a rare sight here. We also spotted a pair of geese and four goslings.

There's also a lot to know about Gina's trail work. She is the president of the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association and works hard to create and maintain our trails. This past week, she and a dedicated group of volunteers spent several days clearing and cleaning after damage from this spring's historic ice storm. Funding is always a challenge. Beaver Island falls under the DNR Wildlife Division, not the Parks and Recreation Division where trail funding typically comes from. The group now offers memberships for just $25 per year—a great way to support the trails and stay updated.

Another way to get involved is to join one of their planned hikes. Several options will be available. People often ask why ORVs aren't allowed on the trails. In short, it's about preventing the spread of invasive species and protecting fragile ecosystems and endangered plants. Having more local involvement would go a long way toward helping folks understand how much effort goes into maintaining our trails. Keep an eye on the Community Calendar for upcoming events.

Gina is known to many as the "mushroom lady." She first got interested in mushrooms back in Illinois, growing shiitake in logs. But once she saw the diversity on Beaver Island, she was hooked. She began researching mushrooms just for fun, taking a mycology course through the University of Pennsylvania. She bought many books and joined several Facebook mushroom groups. She's also a member of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Association. On her coffee table, she showed me a beautifully illustrated mushroom guide along with books on edibility, medicinal uses, and recipes. Her knowledge is inspiring—it made me want to learn more too.

In the little spare time she has, Gina loves crafting. Everything she showed me was a work of art. A pine needle basket and a Huichol hand-beaded skull stood out in her living room. Her bedroom furniture and décor—made from old oars—was especially unique and creative. I don't know how she finds the time to do it all.

If you get the chance, take a hike. Learn more about our birds, our endangered species, or anything that sparks your curiosity. You're never too old to learn something new.

Thanks for your love of our island, Gina. I'm so glad you're here. You're making a difference.

PETRITZ PRESERVE PATHS

By Marilyn Clark Duda

When you walk the trails in Petritz Preserve, have you ever wondered how those paths were created? There's a clue in the road name which borders the Preserve on the east: Lookout Drive. If you turn left on Lookout Drive and head north to the T-junction with Beaver Drive there is a high point ahead. The Coast Guard Lookout Tower used to stand on that high point with clear views to Lake Michigan. Until the Mackinaw Bridge was completed, Coast Guard personnel daily manned that tower with binoculars.

From Whiskey Point where the Boat House still stands (now owned by Central Michigan University) and where the Bunk House once stood (now in Gene Masta's beautiful gardens on McDonough Road), the Coast Guard men would beat those paths to stand their post at Lookout Point. The trails were formed by their repeated trips on foot to and from.

Another piece of the puzzle is found in the small white building at Heritage Park (across from Beaver Island Library). That structure set atop Lookout Point tower. After the Coast Guard stopped manning Lookout Point, it was used as a play house in a local Island family's backyard. It now fittingly stands at the entrance to Heritage Park.

You may wonder how I know this important history. Credit goes to Johnny Andy Gallagher who served in the Coast Guard and walked those paths. In 1995, I purchased 10.2 acres at the north end from Ray & Ann Stanhope. These trails/paths were on that property. Johnny Andy lived in his home at the Point and would invite me to sit on his porch some evenings to hear parts of Island history, now nearly forgotten.

How did those paths and property become part of Petritz Preserve? One Sunday afternoon, George Petritz, Jr. appeared at my cottage door. He explained his family wanted to make their 15 acres available to John Woollam to create a preserve. Mr. Woollam agreed to fund the preserve but not if less than 20 acres. Thus George Jr. came to ask if I would consider letting my acreage adjacent to theirs be included.

Mrs. Althea Petritz hosted my husband, David Duda, and me for lunch at The Cherry Hut in Beulah, Michigan to plan the dedication. Her parents had owned the Cherry Hut prior, and the current owners treated Althea like royalty. Her parents earlier had a roadside stand to sell cherries and pies. Later came Petritz Pie Company.

What a gift the Preserve is to Beaver Island residents and visitors. The Petritz Family property included a tall sand dune vista of Lake Michigan and surrounding islands. Thanks to the generosity of John Woollam, the George and Althea Petritz Preserve was dedicated on Tuesday, August 7, 2012. A copy of the dedication follows.

DEDICATION

Tuesday – August 7, 2012
George and Althea Petritz Preserve
Beaver Island, Michigan

Present: John Woollam; Cindy Woollam

Althea Petritz and children - David; Dosie; George, Jr. (girlfriend Renaté)

Dave & Marilyn Clark Duda

Also present: Bill Cashman; Jeff Cashman; Larry & Maureen Hansz; Satch Wierenga; Pam Grassmick

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We join our hearts and hands in gratitude, giving thanks for this Preserve dedicated this day in honor of George, Sr. and Althea Petritz. Scripture tells us God sees good deeds done in secret and rewards them openly. We've witnessed this in their lives and family.

As the boundaries of this Preserve have been set—to the North, to the South, to the East and to the West—we dedicate it as a place of refuge… a place where peace and wholeness prevail. For all who enter here, we pray blessing. We acknowledge those who have walked these paths before us and give thanks for their lives as well.

Thank you for bringing us together at this time and place in history. We recognize the gracious spirit and generous contributions of John Woollam. May he be honored and blessed abundantly beyond our imagination. We pray this for him and his descendants and for the Petritz family as well, to the third and fourth generations and beyond.

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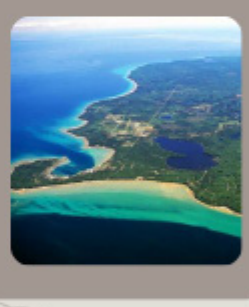

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Museum Week EVENT SCHEDULE

JULY 14-17

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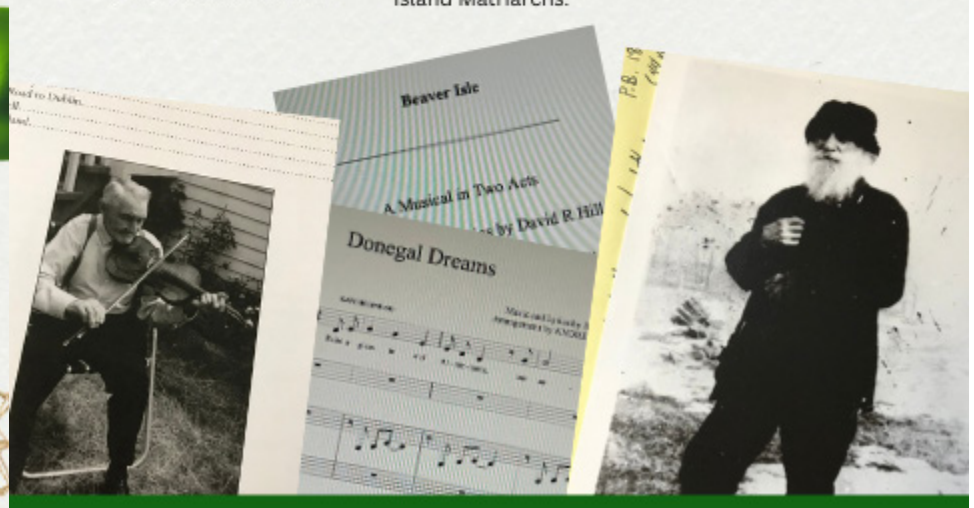
TUESDAY
***Beaver Isle*, the musical:**
Protar & Bonner up close and personal Part 1
A reading of the 2-act play by David R. Hill (with 14 songs)

WEDNESDAY
***Beaver Isle*, the musical:**
Protar & Bonner up close and personal Part 2

THURSDAY
Gutsy Women of Beaver Island
Our 4th Annual recognition event of our beloved Island Matriarchs.



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Sunday, July 27, 2025

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BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL ALUMNUS SETS HIS EYE ON FILM

By Elsie Burton

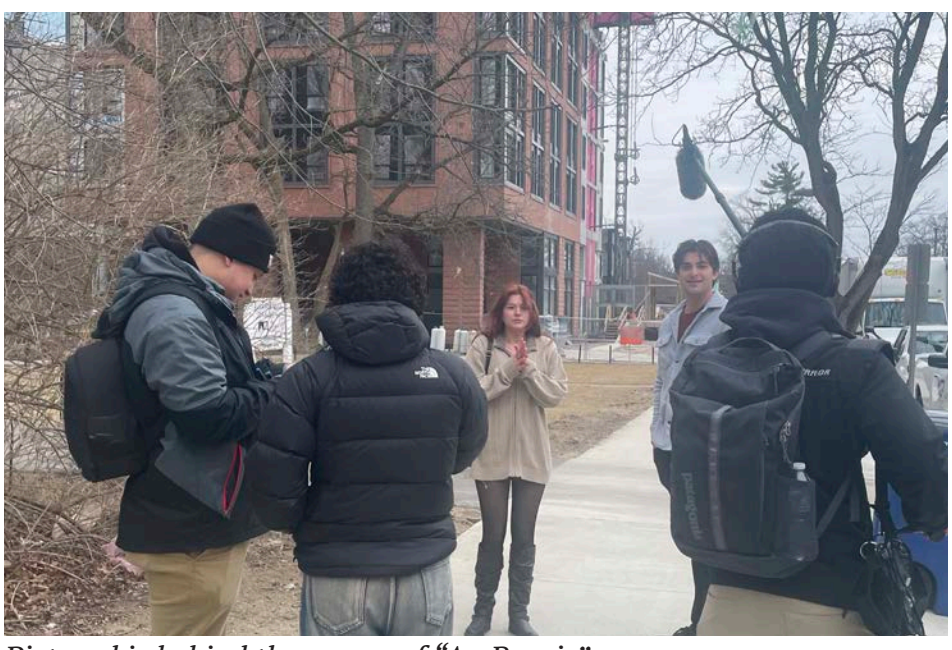
Beaver Island Community School (BICS) has educated many incredible people. One graduate has developed their passion for film and theater into a powerful career. Graduate of BICS class of 2021, Quintan De Laat, is on his way back to Beaver Island this summer to present his new independent film, "Au Revoir".

Pictured is Quintan DeLaat in a 2017-2018 Beaver Island Community School play

De Laat has spent the last four years studying film and entertainment law at the University of Michigan in Dearborn and is finishing out his last semester at the Ann Arbor campus. He is on track to graduate as a dual major this fall.

De Laat has always possessed a passion for the creative side and an eye for art. His time at Beaver Island Community School included years of theater, writing, and art. As he encroached on his last years at BICS, he discovered a passion for script writing during a class with a now relocated teacher, Dianna Loader. Thanks to the creative liberty of the class, he found his passion in creating and setting a scene to tell a story.

This summer during the Beaver Island Historical Society's film festival, De Laat is bringing his new film with him for its first public screening. He disclosed that the film was written specifically for the Beaver Island community and only came to fruition due to his father Nicholas 'Nick' De Laat's encouragement.



Pictured is behind the scenes of "Au Revoir"

So, at the request of his father, De Laat developed the up and coming independent film "Au Revoir". The film centers around the relationship of Calvin and Marilyn. The primary character, Calvin, returns home to his partner Marilyn after an undisclosed traumatic experience—battling mental turmoil. In an attempt to spare Marilyn, he hides his feelings and struggles, but in doing so separates and distances himself from his lover. Marilyn questions this relationship and his actions, prompting the premise of the story. The film follows the two on both a literal and figurative stroll, unraveling the complexities of their characters and the relationship they share.

De Laat is eager to share his film with the community and bring his talents back to his home. De Laat's parents Candice and Nicholas still live on the Island with their two school-age children Parker and Izzabella. The De Laat family are regularly involved in the community and a familiar name to many.

The Beaver Island Historical Society's film festival will take place August 15 and 16 of 2025. Be sure to attend and support the many filmmakers coming to the Island to share their artistic view.

Pictured is Madison Sabryn (left) and Preston Lyford (right) behind the scenes of "Au Revoir"

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

"I was inspired by the works of Jean-Luc Godard, Sidney Lumet and Louis Valle to create a short film that was contained, and highlighted a singular aspect of the human experience. I wrote a vignette titled "Au Revoir" which began as the conflict between a young couple, and evolved into a young couple versus circumstance. I wanted to capture the disconnection of distance, and how relationships evolve, especially when both parties are willing to grow as they go. Paired with two passionate, and talented thespians I was able to pull together this ragtag group of filmmakers and create an honest, heartfelt, and contrasting view of young relationships.

This film was a matter of passion, creativity, and having such a great team behind me. Everyone who worked on the project was someone who wanted to make a movie, and to make one that was off the norm from usual short films.

Creating this film was a challenge, but it was a beautiful and heartfelt experience that allowed me to stretch my creativity and attempt to capture the epitome of human connection."

- Quintan De Laat

AU REVIOR CREDITS

Quintan de Laat / Director
Ammar Yaser / Assistant Director
Ezekiel Snyder / Sound Engineer
Syndey Mckinney-Williams / Executive Producer
Mariam Awad / Executive Producer (Co-Owner of Moglie)

CAST

Preston Lyford as Calvin
Madison Sabryn as Marilyn

PRESS REVIEWS

"... One gets pulled in, and can't help but watch these two lovers reconnect..."

- KJ Reviews

C3F AWARDS COMMUNITY PRIORITIES GRANTS ACROSS CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

By Pam Decker

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) recently hosted their Community Priorities Grant Cycle responding to requests from local nonprofit organizations working to address critical community needs across Charlevoix County. Thanks to donors who participated with the Community Foundation to make a difference close to home, they awarded a total of 16 grants to local organizations totaling $157,840 in support of programs and projects benefiting Charlevoix County.

One organization in particular will have a huge impact for our friends and neighbors on Beaver Island. The Beaver Island District Library was awarded a grant of $6,895 to boost technology access for Island residents. The BIDL is one of the anchor institutions on Beaver Island, providing wi-fi internet access 24/7, inside and outside of the building, as well as computers for public access, unique programming, and opportunities for patrons to learn new skills. BIDL will use grant funds to upgrade some outdated technology and offer coding and cybersecurity programs for all ages.

Additional Island related grant funding:

THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK - GRANT AWARD: $5,000
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For more information about the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, contact the Foundation office at 231-536-2440 or visit the organization's website at *www.c3f.org*.

NO KINGS PROTEST

On June 14, about 110 people gathered at the Harbor Beach / playground to march to the Post Office and back. The event took place in collaboration with others across the country in protest of Donald Trump.

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HARBORMASTER FINGEROOT MAKES QUICK IMPROVEMENTS

By Elsie Burton

Big things are underway at the Beaver Island Municipal Marina. As the summer season hits full throttle, Vicky Fingeroot said "I look forward to creating a friendly Marina that promotes tourism. At the same time, I want to make sure our island residents get as much use and enjoyment as possible."

The Marina is now open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. With a big improvement—the gas dock is now open all day every day.

The boating season has been extended through September 29 on Marina South Dock and October 15 on Marina North.

We've all driven by the Marinas and seen empty slips. Weekdays and weekends. In response, to best serve our local boaters, Fingeroot is establishing a short-term slips program. To take advantage of this exciting opportunity, find out more just drop by the Marina or call.

Vicky says "we're here for our local community and our visiting boaters. Tell everyone to come visit!"

Pictured: Alyssa Martin (left) and Vicky Fingeroot (right).

Pictured is the Beaver Island Municipal Marina's gas dock which is now open all day.

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BEAVER ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL BOUNCES BACK AFTER SPRING STORM

By George Broder

As March came to a close and April rolled on in Michigan in the Spring of 2025, a storm unlike any other hit Northern Michigan. Just when warmer weather was on the minds of everyone awaiting a welcoming spring day, a cold and icy storm washed over Northern Michigan.

The storm brought freezing rain, snow, and layers upon layers of ice. Many in Michigan were left without power for days, and for some even weeks. The weight of ice buildup on branches created tremendous debris, making roads and driveways impassable. Any travel posed a danger to residents of Northern Michigan.

Beaver Island experienced tremendous storm damage and remained isolated for days. Beaver Island, the largest island in Lake Michigan, is accessible only by ferry or plane, which made recovery efforts even more difficult during the storm. Residents were encouraged to stay home until better conditions arrived. Ordinarily, staying home would be no issue for an Islander, but the storm damage took down numerous power lines and poles, leaving Islanders without power. Power remained out on parts of the Island for over a week, with full restoration taking several more days. The combination of no electricity and hazardous conditions made for a grueling spring.

Cleanup from the storm was and remains a big task. While Michigan sent support from the National Guard and Department of Natural Resources (DNR), their task was only to clear main roadways and key support points such as access to utility poles and equipment. This has left the Beaver Island community to clean up the rest on their own.

However, the storm that hit Northern Michigan spared no portion of Beaver Island. The Beaver Island Music Festival (BIMF) campground and stage area took a beating. Tree litter made camping areas unusable, the forest a potentially dangerous area, and destroyed several pieces of play equipment in the children's area. There is much to be done to make the property fully accessible to festival-goers.

BIMF is an annual festival that takes place in the low, wooded center of Beaver Island off of West Side Drive on Hideaway Trail. The natural setting and woodland vibes have always made for the perfect summer festival on the Island. The festival takes place annually on the third full weekend in July. This year, it will take place on July 17–19.

The festival is going on its 23rd year and has grown to add so much value to the Beaver Island community. Not only does the event encourage much-needed summer tourism, which many businesses thrive off of, BIMF adds more than economic value as it has developed a sweet and welcoming culture. BIMF encourages people from all over to gather and share in a love of music and nature. It features local and regional performers across genres such as folk, rock, bluegrass, and indie, drawing hundreds of attendees each year to the Island's serene, wooded setting. People are tucked away in the woods where they can fall in love with the quiet morning bustle of nature and evenings filled with music of a wide variety. Everyone is sure to find something they love at BIMF. The festival is family-friendly, offering various areas of camping and privacy as well as a playground in the eyesight of the ticket booth to ensure safety and encourage connectivity for all of the children that participate.

However, thanks to the support of so many BIMF supporters and Island lovers, clean-up is underway. On Sunday, June 8, a group of supporters went out to the property to help remove debris and cut up the many downed trees on the property. Patrons of the Arts in Rural Communities (PARC) executive director and co-founder of BIMF said, "I want to give a big shout-out to everyone who came out on Sunday to volunteer for the ice-storm clean-up. Many hands make light work! We made a significant dent in clearing brush and fallen trees."

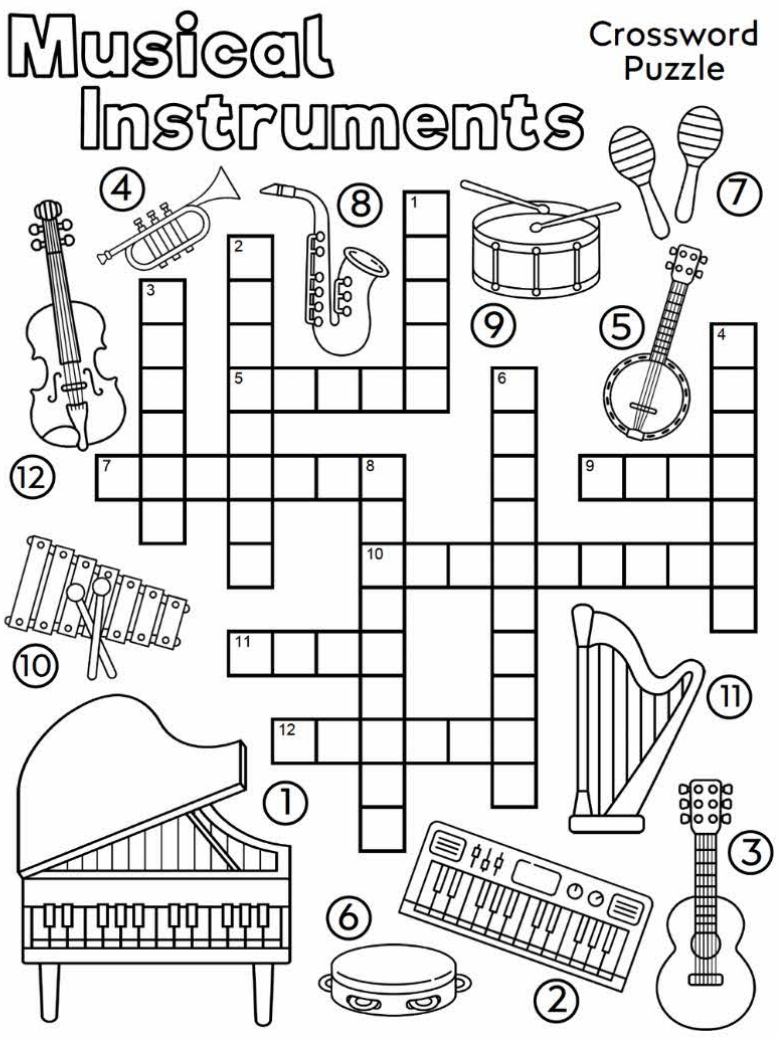
Some of the many volunteers include Keith Brothers, Dave Derosia, Woody & Leslee Pearson, Chris Heikka, Trish-Jim-Bree-Drew Manning, Joel and Shelby Meinstema, Wendy and Randy Sayers, and Del and Melinda Burton.

Carol is deeply appreciative of the work and support of the Beaver Island community and the friends of BIMF. However, there is still much work to be done and every bit of help makes a huge difference. Whether you are able to lend a helping hand or give a penny or two, your support matters. If you are interested in volunteering or supporting in any way, contact Carol Burton at 231-838-2883 or visit *https://bimf.net/* for more information.

The Kids' Corner

Sponsored by the Beaver Island Music Festival

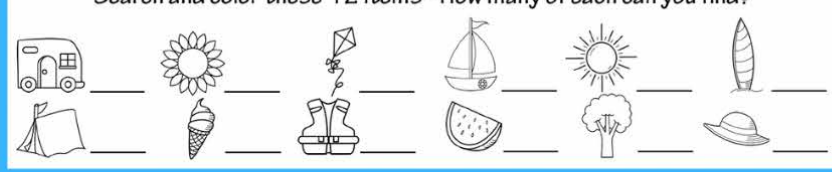
Musical Instruments Crossword Puzzle

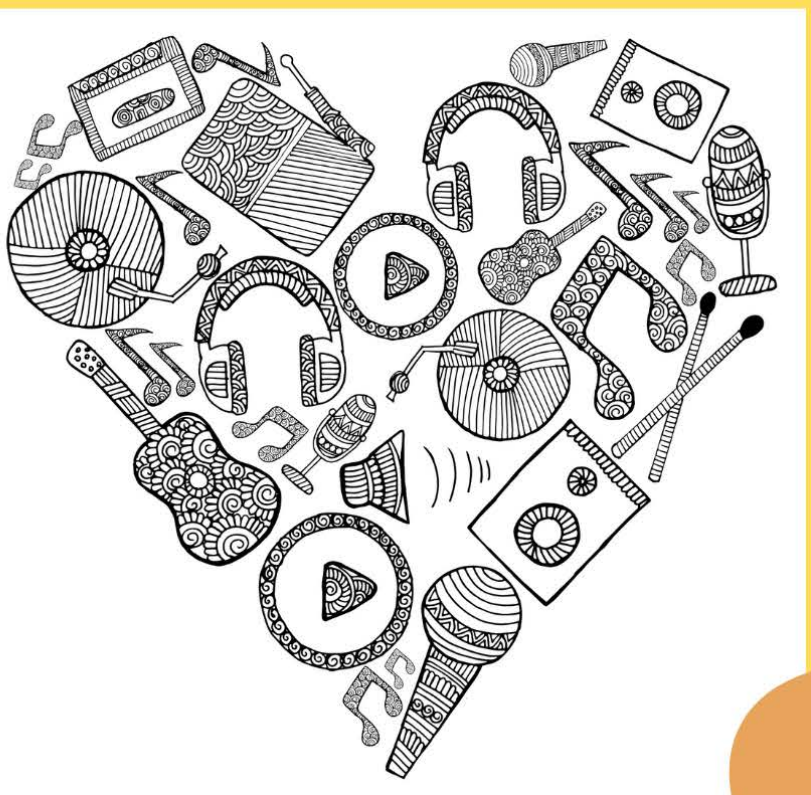


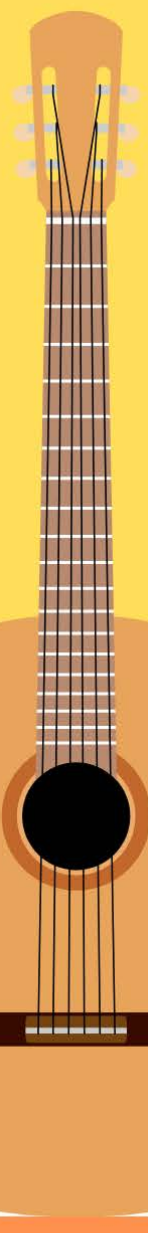
Free printable courtesy of PrintitFree.net

I spy something...

Search and color these 12 items - How many of each can you find?

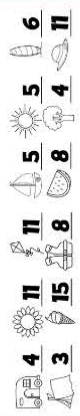






Don't forget to bring your completed kids' page to the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum for a prize!

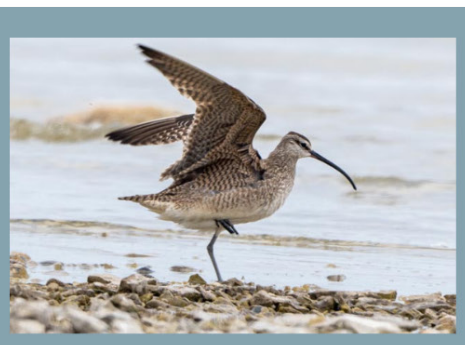
AND, send a picture of you and your page to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** to be featured in the monthly paper!



ANSWERS

Community Collage

Beaver Island at a glance



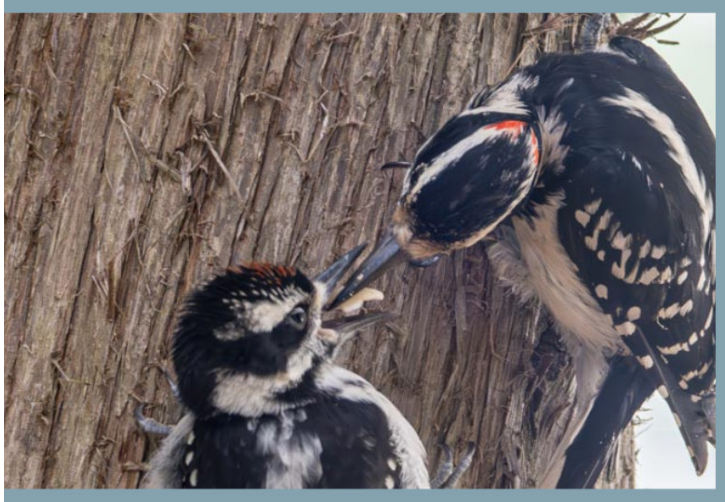


Photo Credits:
George Broder
Tom Hawkins

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRADUATION
JUNE 7, 2025

By Alyssa Martin, Valedictorian

To start, I want to express my gratitude to all the teachers, staff, and board members who made this day possible. I'd also like to thank you all for being here today and celebrating with us. I know this isn't the cheapest or easiest place to get to, but it means the world that you are all here.

It feels surreal to me that I am standing up here today, closing this chapter of my life, and reflecting on all of my years as a BICS student. This day had always seemed so far out of reach.

I remember my first day of school very well. I was wearing a pink camouflage jacket with my backpack hanging off my shoulders, and I was holding my mom's hand. I was too scared to leave her, so she had to come into the classroom for a little while.

And then there was the first day of fourth grade. My sister and I were riding our bikes to school, and I fell off, scraping my knee, but of course my sister just left me there because she didn't want to be late. Don't worry, I still made it to school.

It seems like just yesterday I was in seventh grade, trying on my volleyball uniform for the first time, and playing in my first game with my mom as the coach.

And of course I'll never forget when my car came over on the boat with a big red bow and I got to drive it to school on the first day of my Junior year.

And just like that, 14 years have flown by, and now here we are.

I can't even begin to describe how grateful I am for this school. I have often complained about how small it is and how I didn't get to have a traditional high school experience, but I wouldn't change it for the world because the connections I have with these amazing teachers will last a lifetime. I will tell people about my very energetic principal, who was also my favorite English teacher, and who made analyzing poetry a little less boring. I will tell people about Ms. Myers and how she always said good morning with a big smile on her face, and how she truly cared about everyone's well-being. I will tell people about my government teacher and basketball coach, Mrs. Nicole, and how she was often over-caffeinated but never lacked positivity or generosity, and always reminded us to box out. I will tell people about my science teacher Mr. Foli, and how he has truly been a symbol of strength and courage these past few years. And I will tell people about my math teacher, Mr. Kohne, who helped me occasionally enjoy solving problems, but we both know math wasn't really my thing.

All jokes aside, I deeply appreciate what you all have done for me.

I also have to give credit to the two teachers who have watched me grow up from preschool until now. Mrs. Patti and Mrs. Robert, you have seen me at my worst when I was a kid, and you have been at my side when I succeeded. When I was in elementary school, I was always with Mrs. Patti. Whether it was reading in her classroom or chatting outside at recess, I could usually be found with her. Now, Mrs. Robert had the pleasure of dealing with me when I was quite the challenging individual. We had our battles, but she had patience and never gave up on me. I am proud to say that these two wonderful women were some of my earliest role models and have helped shape me into who I am today.

Now, of course, I have to give a special thanks to my parents because I know I haven't said it enough. Thank you for raising me to be independent, but also letting me know that you'll always be there if I need help. Thank you for encouraging me to take advantage of the opportunities that I have been given, and thank you for putting up with my attitude.

You both were there at almost every sports game, even traveling away for some, and you chaperoned many trips that I begged you to go on. Thank you, Dad, for the sports advice, even when I really didn't want to hear it. As many of you know, I struggled with keeping a positive attitude on the court, but my dad told me once to try and be a point of light. I think he stole that advice from Randy Travis though, because the lines in his song go like this: All it takes is a point of light, a ray of hope in the darkest night, and if you see what's wrong and try to make it right, you will be a point of light. I mean it is good advice. He told me to try and be positive, be a beacon that your teammates can look up to and trust, and I hope I accomplished that. And thank you, Mom, for just being you. I admire your strength, beauty, and positivity tremendously, and I couldn't have made it through the tough times without you. Thank you for listening to me when I couldn't explain my thoughts, and thank you for your endless love.

We all know that this community is like no other. The past few months, people have been asking me what my plans are after high school, and I've told them all I will be down at Grand Valley. And without hesitation, many of those people have told me about their family or friends that live close by and that I could always reach out if I needed anything. That just goes to show how amazing this community is.

In a few months I'll be on the boat heading towards my future, but it will be bittersweet. It's so exciting heading into the unknown, but at the same time, I will miss seeing these familiar faces every day, and I will miss the comfort that this school provides. But it is time for us to grow, and to be uncomfortable in a new place and to meet new people. And even though I'll be miles and miles away, I know I will still have the island connection we all cherish so much.

I have learned a lot from my experience at this school, and I want to give a few pieces of advice to the underclassmen. Always try your best in academics and in sports. Even if you don't get the recognition you want, someone will see you, or it is a sign that you can try harder. Maintain a connection to your teachers and adults in the community because it's not about what you know it's about who you know. Say good morning and hello to your teachers and friends because it shows that you are present. Try your best in your senior year because it is the most important and your last chance to improve test scores to get better scholarships. Don't wish your time away, because before you know it, you'll be wishing to be back on this Island for one more summer.

We are all guilty of wishing our time away, whether it was for a dreadful day to be over, something fun happening at the end of the week, or in my case for this day to get here sooner. At the beginning of the year I just wanted to jump straight to the end, and straight to this moment. I didn't realize at the time that everyone who told me that this year would fly by would be right. I feel like the past year was a blur, and I wish I would have taken Ferris Bueller's advice to stop and take a look around. Now I am hoping that this summer will go by as slowly as it used to when I was a kid because I know it won't ever be quite the same.

I have one final piece of advice I'd like to give to the underclassmen and to anyone who hasn't heard this story before.

There once was an elderly carpenter who was looking to retire so he told his contractor of his plans. The contractor was sad to see him go, but asked him to build one more house.

[Continued on page 23]

The carpenter said yes, but over time you could see that his heart was not in his work. He didn't use the best materials, nor did he take the time and consideration that he used to use. When the carpenter finished the house, the contractor came by to inspect it, and handed him the key to the home and said, "this is my gift to you." What a shame the carpenter thought, if only he knew that this house would be for him, he would've built it differently. Now he has to live in a home that he built none too well.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, and put up a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build.

My cousin Tony told me that story a few months ago and clearly it stuck with me. So to the younger classmen, I know you won't remember much from this speech, but I ask you to remember this story, and to keep in mind that every decision you make you will be adding a piece to your forever home.

The class of 2025 has a strong foundation built thanks to this school and the community. We have had a lot of guidance, but now it is up to us to build up the next part of our lives. So, to my fellow graduates, I wish you both the best of luck with building your future, and congratulations!

INTRODUCTION OF SENATOR DAMOOSE:
Now it's my honor to introduce this year's commencement speaker, State Senator John Damoose. We met Mr. Damoose last year over a Zoom call in our AP language class, where he shared with us his perspective on being an elected official. We appreciated his stance on public service and trying to bridge the partisan divide in Lansing. Prior to him running for office, he was a documentary filmmaker and had produced nine national television specials with themes like Arlington National Cemetery, Military families, and NASA. More recently, he was a key player in assisting northern Michigan counties receive support to clean up after the March ice storm. So now, please put your hands together for Senator Damoose.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY GUEST SPEAKER SPEECH

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRADUATION
JUNE 7, 2025

By John Damoose, State Senator, 37th District

I've been so excited to join you for this great, momentous moment in each of your lives. I committed to this speech in May of 2024—which is shocking—I have never seen a school district so organized that you plan your graduation speaker more than a year in advance. But, then again, I should have known—Mr. Cwikiel was my kids' school principal and he ran a tight ship even back then.

In preparing for this speech, I asked Mr. Cwikiel to just give me an idea of how many graduating students there would be so I could picture it in my mind. He said "Three!" I said, "What?"

And it hit me all of a sudden, what an amazing, wild and unique experience each of you have been through. Do you know how special that is—to be one of only three?

It sort of reminds me of when our older kids were in school. My wife is Vietnamese and I am white, so they are mixed race. Harbor Springs has a lot of diversity, but a different kind of diversity—not necessarily racial diversity. And when we saw a pie chart of the ethnic groups in our schools, there was one category that said "3% Other."

Our family figured our kids were that whole category—"3% Other." It was such an interesting thing to think about—so much so that one of our kids wrote an essay for a college application about being the "3% Other"—it wasn't a bad thing at all—just a really interesting perspective about seeing the world differently.

Each of you have the exact same thing— you are one of three! You wouldn't know it now, but that is going to be something that will stick with you your whole life—and you will be proud of it!

Do you know how proud your community is of you? And that they know each and every one of you? And that they care about each and every one of you? I was number 14 out of 350. You are one of three!

I found it really telling that Mr. Cwikiel sent me a description of each of you, so I had an idea of who I would be talking to. I'm actually going to read what he said:

Alyssa Martin. Alyssa is our valedictorian. She grew up on Beaver Island and is heading off to the Honors College at Grand Valley State University where she plans to study business. She comes from a long line of Island business owners and entrepreneurs.

Her mom and dad own and operate the company on the Island that provides fuel oil and gas to Island residents. Her grandmother owns and operates the Circle M restaurant (best restaurant on the Island) and her grandpa owns and operates a well-drilling company. Alyssa has been involved in NHS and has played varsity volleyball and basketball since 6th grade (Yes, our middle schoolers can play varsity sports). Alyssa is incredibly well-organized and lives by the values of hard work, family, and community. Alyssa is currently taking AP Literature and AP U.S. Government and Politics.

Ava Palmer-Bousquet. Although Ava comes from a long line of Islanders, she and her mom moved to Beaver Island (from Charlevoix) when she was a sophomore. Ava has an amazing singing voice and many of her family members are musicians. Her grandfather, Ed Palmer, is something of a local musical legend. There is a non-profit organization that was formed in his honor to promote musical education in the school. Ava is planning on heading to Northern Michigan University in Marquette (not sure yet what she is studying). Ava has applied herself since she came to Beaver Island (it is sometimes hard to move into a new high school, even though you might have strong family connections) and has been involved in volleyball and student council. Ava is also currently taking AP Literature and AP U.S. Government and Politics.

Jason Selby. Jason is heading to Traverse City to enroll in NMC's drone program. He's been on the Island since he was in elementary school and is an avid outdoorsman that loves to hunt and fish. In addition to his hunting and fishing, he has a passion for trucks and a talent for fixing them. Since he was in Middle School, Jason has been involved with the Beaver Island Community School Robotics Team. He's been the leader and captain of the team for the past four years. As you might expect, with a small robotics team, each person has to wear a lot of hats. Jason has put in countless hours after school and well into the wee hours of the morning building, rebuilding, programming, and re-programming the robot to get it operational before competitions. Jason is currently taking AP Calculus and AP U.S. Government and Politics.

Do you realize that literally no one has stories like that? And I want you to think about something—I guarantee you are the ONLY graduating class in the entire state of Michigan whose Superintendent could write a story about each of you individually. Do you know how special that is?

[Continued on page 24]

You are going to graduate, you're going to head off of the island and into a world that doesn't know you and will, I'm sure, feel very big by comparison at times. But I want you to never forget where you came from—and don't let anybody out there make you feel like you don't belong—and don't be fearful of that big world—because that world NEEDS YOU and the exact experiences and values that ONLY YOU have to share. You have so much to offer this world that is totally unique! Don't ever let anyone tell you anything different—you are "one of three." That's a big deal.

I see this on a daily basis in the messy and often very ugly political world in which I operate. I talked with you a year or two ago about how to communicate with political leaders, and sadly, I think a lot of political leaders today could actually take lessons from you on how to communicate.

I actually feel bad for your generation.

I had the blessing and honor of growing up with Ronald Reagan as president. No matter what you believe about the policies of Ronald Reagan, he was graceful and civil. He treated people with respect. We only had three television networks back then, and he would give these addresses from the Oval Office that our whole family would crowd around to watch. I didn't even need to know what he was talking about at the time—he was just so distinguished, so reassuring—he was larger than life and inspiring.

You haven't had that experience at all. Sadly, you look at so many politicians today and see anger and hatred. I watched several political leaders speaking recently, and if my 11 year old talked about people like that—he'd be grounded. I'm sorry my generation isn't setting a better example for you.

But here's what I mean when I say the world needs YOU. I'm not saying that everything is perfect all the time for all of you on this beautiful island. Life is messy—for all of us. Families can be messy—for all of us at times.

But there is no way you can survive on this remote island without learning some real lessons about how to treat other people right.

You may not know it yet, but your experiences in this small community have given you values that the rest of us absolutely need:

For instance - you can't treat others as an outcast—you have to work together. There's no way your class can be divided—what "Two against one?" "Us versus them?" I don't need to know you personally to know that doesn't work in your world.

You have obviously learned you can't just bounce from one thrill to another—you can't just chase every "shiny new thing" or ditch your old friends for new ones whenever you want. You can't just race downtown to buy whatever you want whenever you want it. You've learned patience. You've learned planning. You have learned how to build and keep real relationships, because you have no other choice.

You've learned how to help each other out on this island. You can't see someone in trouble on the side of the road and just ignore it—you have to stop. That's not always true out there in the bigger world.

I read a book not long ago about social psychology. It asked the question—if you were in public and collapsed from a heart attack, would you rather be with a lot of people or just one? They talked about how it actually happened at a busy store somewhere, and the guy actually died. They studied the situation and concluded it would have been better if there was only one person there because in a crowd, it is too easy to conclude someone else will deal with it. When you are the only one there, you have no choice but to act.

And that has been built into you over and over and over again. You may not even be aware of it, but that sense of duty and community is INSIDE each of you—or you wouldn't survive in a place like this. And you will see when you get out there just how unique that really is.

You've had to be tough. You've had to be courageous. You've had to be creative. If you sit back and really think about it, I absolutely know you can all think of times when each of those has been true. You can picture moments you had to improvise because you needed a part to something that you wouldn't be able to get for a while. You can picture when you had to really get ready for a big storm—or figure out how to do something yourself because nobody else was around.

See, you may not know it, but you've been getting unbelievable training in the character and ethics that our fast-paced modern world desperately needs. People are going to be looking to YOU because you have something different inside of you—something that was hand crafted within each and every one of you by an island who loves you and a community who knows who you are.

It has taken me a lifetime to learn some of the simple truths you have had no choice but to learn. To be kind to one another. To care for one another. To listen to one another. To treat others as you would like to be treated. Just turn on the news right now—YOU KNOW this is EXACTLY what we need.

Each of you should hold your heads high today. You have accomplished something very special—just graduating from high school is a big deal. But to graduate and already have plans for the next step is an even bigger deal. And to graduate and have plans for the next step and to be well prepared for that next step—which, make no mistake about it, you are—well that's an even bigger deal still.

But to do and be all those things, and have such a unique set of experiences and values that come from being one of three? Well, I just can't wait to see what becomes of each of you.

I'll leave you with this thought.

Resist the temptation to turn your back on this character which has been cultivated within you. I say this all the time in politics—it takes no effort to yell and scream or break down "the other side." That's the easiest thing in the world to do. I can embarrass other people in about two seconds, and ruin a relationship in about 1 second if I wanted to.

But the harder path is to love. To be kind. To care for others. To exhibit self control. To intentionally and deliberately resist the urge to lash out or indulge our basest instincts.

It can actually feel good—for at least a moment—to say mean things about people or to tell someone what you really think about them. But the harder task…the better path… what the world actually needs is someone who will pause, and think, and care enough to build and nurture relationships which will then lead to working together for a better world. These things are possible.

And I know from your unique, amazing, and again—WILD circumstances—being one of three—that you are prepared to do just that. Don't ever forget it—this world needs YOU—exactly how you are!

THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER HOSTS BROADBAND FORUM

By Bill Reed

On Thursday, June 12, a couple dozen curious Islanders gathered in the Community Center auditorium for a first look at the future of telecommunications on Beaver Island. That evening Kevin Boyle, representing the Joint Telecommunications Advisory Committee (JTAC), shared portions of the presentation he made at a joint township meeting in May and described the plan ahead. The May meeting produced a unanimous vote to support a Beaver Island Association (BIA) led project to study the feasibility of building a municipally owned fiber optic network on Beaver Island.

BroadbandBI
Connecting Beaver Island to the World
Current project team
Fiber to the Island:
• Peninsula Fiber Network to the Font Lake/St James Tower (network hub)
Fiber on the Island:
• Merit Network Inc. for the School, Library, Health Center, and CMU Biological Station
• Provider for Fiber to the Home needs to be solved and recommendations are presented today.
Beaver Island Township Boards' Advisors:
• Joint Telecommunications Advisory Committee with assistance from the BIA Broadband Team and an Internet Service Provider - Advance Communications and Data

Available in full on the *beaverIslandassociation.org* website, Boyle's presentation included a review of the BIA's efforts to exploit government grant programs and attract private investment to modernize the Island's telecom infrastructure. None of these have produced a successful, community-wide, solution. He concluded that this leaves Islander's with just a few remaining options: continue with individual DIY patches; wait for TDS to make good on vague promises for improvement; or to take control of our own future and build a municipal, Islander-owned network. It would not be the first time that Beaver Islander's took infrastructure matters into their own hands. Boyle's presentation recalled that both the first electric and first telephone services on the Island were established and operated by Islanders. That history of Island initiative is also reflected in a map Kevin displayed illustrating the limited, on-Island fiber network currently under construction by the Beaver Island Consortium and Merit Networks. That network will link the school, library, community center, health center, and Central Michigan University delivering high-speed, buried fiber optic internet service to those Island institutions.

It is not just those key Island institutions that have an interest in improved broadband internet access. In his presentation Kevin shared the results of a 2021 survey of Islanders indicating that even then 97% of respondents wanted improved broadband service. Why?... 87% indicated they have someone in the household working on-line and 74% reported they had children who struggled to complete homework assignments due to inadequate internet service. The BIA distributed a new survey during the meeting to update and further gauge public interest. It too is available on their website.

A few people in attendance pointed out that they were currently using the Starlink, satellite internet service and finding it adequate for their needs. To this, Boyle and others in the audience noted that the service is expensive and not accessible in many locations due to terrain or tree cover. Dick Mulvihill added that the top speed available from Starlink is much slower than even a middling fiber optic plan and that it will always trail fiber performance due to the necessity of launching thousands of new satellites to effect an increase in satellite-based internet speed. Other questions were raised regarding a rumor that the installation of fiber cables would require expansion of public rights-of-way and perhaps crossing sensitive wetlands to lay the new cable. Based on mapping data that has already been evaluated, Boyle assured the audience that the 180 miles of cable required to wire the Island can be accommodated within existingpublic rights-of-way and that any implementation must adhere to environmental regulations.

Most questions from the audience, not surprisingly, revolved around the question of how much it would cost and how to pay for a municipally owned fiber network. Answering these questions with precision and a high degree of confidence is the objective of the study currently underway. The preliminary estimates are promising though. Based on previous work conducted by the BIA and JTAC with an assist from Michigan ISP operator ACD, Kevin presented charts illustrating that the combined cost to a typical island household for a modest millage and competitive subscription fee would amount to substantially less than both current Starlink rates and the inferior TDS DSL service.

The new system will be designed to reach every habitable building on the island with buried service. Vacant land will not be wired initially but provisions will be made in the plan to add new properties as they are developed. When complete, the grant-funded study will provide the data required to precisely budget for the cost of the project. This will enable the townships to calculate the exact mix of revenue bonds and millage required to fund it. Island voters will ultimately determine whether to authorize the necessary financing.

As the meeting wound down, several attendees observed that they currently worked from home and that a reliable high-speed network will be needed to attract others to the island to do the same. Another person observed that the island is competing for tourist business with mainland communities that already offer ubiquitous high-speed broadband service. The meeting wrapped with an observation by Kevin that the Beaver Island Fiber network is needed "to protect our future". There were no objections.

BroadbandBI
Connecting Beaver Island to the World

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No Job Too Big or Too Small
www.olsonconstructionllc.org
olsonconstructionbi@gmail.com
231-675-8180

SEEKING SUMMER STORIES

At the *Northern Islander*, we welcome you to submit your own original content. This fall, we would like to feature more of your personal Island experiences.

If you have something to share, email your story to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** for review.

BEAVER ISLAND IRISH HERITAGE GROUP ANNOUNCES WORKSHOPS FOR THE 2025 FÉILE

CELEBRATE IRISH CULTURE WITH ENGAGING EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

By Kathleen (Kitty) McNamara

The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group is thrilled to announce an exciting array of workshops as part of this year's Féile. These workshops are designed to immerse participants in the rich heritage, traditions, and spirit of Ireland through a variety of engaging educational and recreational activities. Whether your heart beats to the rhythm of Irish music, your curiosity is piqued by the geology of Ireland, or you're eager to learn traditional Irish sports, the Féile has something special for you. The workshops are in addition to the amazing musicians and the currachs on the water and all the other great craic you have come to expect from the Feile. Festival Tickets are on sale now at www.irishfeile.com. The full schedule of event times will be posted to our website closer to the September 5 and 6 Féile.

IRISH SOCIAL DANCING WITH ANNE CONNAGHAN

Straight from the Irish island of Arranmore, Anne Connaghan will lead a captivating workshop on Irish social dancing. This workshop is perfect for dancers of all levels, from beginners to seasoned enthusiasts, and promises to teach you the steps and spirit of traditional Irish céilí and set dancing. Join Anne as she shares the joy and camaraderie of dances that have brought communities together for generations.

GAELIC FOOTBALL WITH JERRY EARLY

Dive into the excitement of one of Ireland's most beloved sports with Jerry Early, also hailing from Arranmore. This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the basics of Gaelic football, including its rules, techniques, and strategies. Whether you're a sports aficionado or just curious to learn, this is a fantastic opportunity to experience the energy and teamwork that define this uniquely Irish game.

IRISH MUMMERS WORKSHOP WITH JOHN FLANNAGAN

Explore the fascinating tradition of Irish mumming with John Flannagan, who hails from Co. Fermanagh with strong Arranmore connections. This workshop dives into the heritage of Irish mummers, known for their vibrant costumes, storytelling, and performance art. Learn about the history and cultural significance of this ancient practice, and discover how it continues to captivate audiences today.

GEOLOGY OF IRELAND WITH ENDA REILLY

Discover the natural beauty and geological history of Ireland in this workshop led by Enda Reilly, who brings a unique perspective from both Dublin and Michigan. Enda will share insights and unravel the mysteries of Ireland's Rocks. He'll discuss the basalt of The Giant's Causeway, the unique limestones in the Burren and the geologic connections between Ireland and the USA. Gain a deeper appreciation for the land that has inspired poets, artists, and dreamers for centuries.

IRISH LANGUAGE & MUSIC WORKSHOP WITH CATRIONA KENNEDY

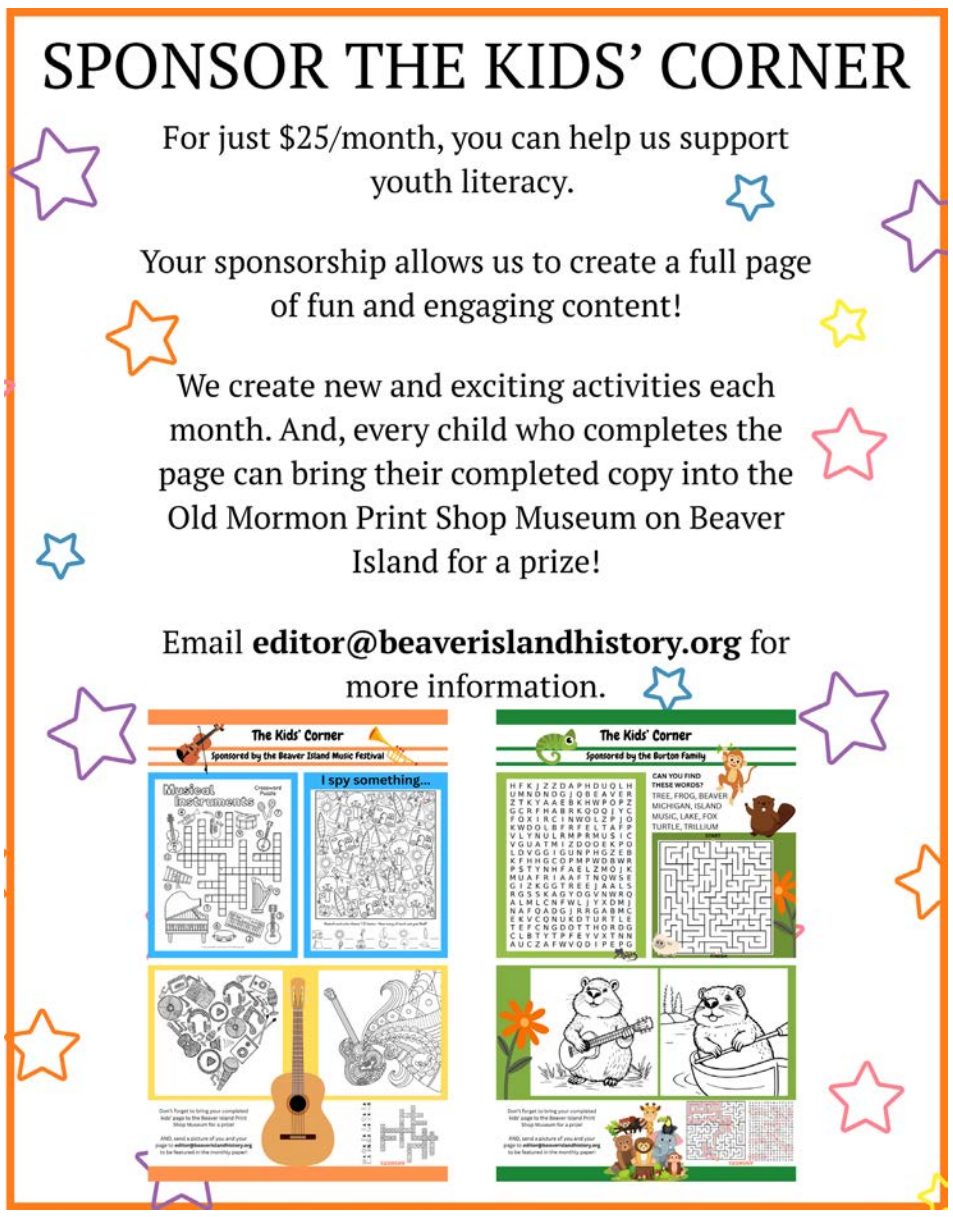
Combine the magic of Ireland's native language and traditional music in this special workshop led by fiddler Catriona Kennedy from Ireland. Participants will be introduced to the Irish language, learning key phrases and expressions, while also experiencing its intimate connection to the country's music. Catriona is a fiddle player from Ireland with strong ties to Donegal. In the past year, Catriona has been involved in an exciting partnership between Cairdeas na bhFidileiri (Donegal) and TUNES Music Makers to teach online lessons to young fiddle players from Beaver Island.

SAINT BRIGID'S CROSS MAKING WORKSHOP WITH CINDY GILLESPIE CUSHMAN

Join Cindy Gillespie Cushman, from one of the historic Beaver Island Irish families, in making St Brigid's Crosses. St. Brigid's Crosses are woven from dried grasses and other natural material. You can then display or hang them in your home to protect yourself from negative energy. The reeds used in making the crosses are harvested on the island the day before the workshop. The crosses make a great souvenir and the skills you learn can be used time and again.

A CELEBRATION OF IRISH CULTURE

These workshops are just a glimpse of what the Féile has to offer. Each session provides a unique opportunity to connect with Ireland's vibrant heritage, whether through dance, sport, storytelling, geology, or language. Open to all ages and backgrounds, the Féile invites everyone to come together in the spirit of learning, creativity, and community. All workshop instructors are also seasoned musicians who will be performing on the stages during the festival.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If you have content you would like to share for review, contact the editor of the Northern Islander
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music lineup

Jerry Early & Friends ☘ **Tartan Terrors**

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Ruby John ☘ **Stay Happy Band**

Enda Reilly ☘ **Catriona Kennedy**

events & activities

Currach Races

Contests & Children's Games

Historical Presentations

BI Irish American Hall of Fame

Emerald Isle Irish Feile Festival

cultural workshops

Saint Brigid's Cross Making Workshop
with Cindy Gillespie Cushman

Irish Language & Music Workshop
with Catriona Kennedy

Gaelic Football
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AP LITERATURE TOOK TO THE BIG APPLE - NEW YORK

By Elsie Burton

Beaver Island Community School's (BICS) AP Literature students ended the year on the right note with a trip to New York! In June, BICS Superintendent, Wil Cwikiel, took students Alyssa Martin, Ava Palmer-Bousquet, Sophie McDonough, Lexi Pease, and Izzabella DeLaat to the Big Apple.

Their travels included a flight from Traverse City, Michigan, directly to LaGuardia, New York. From there, the class made their way to their hotel, which was located just outside of Times Square. They stayed in New York for a total of four nights, experiencing new things each day.

The class spent their days visiting the famous Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Museum, the Empire State Building, the Met, and touring Harlem. In addition to their tour of the city, they saw four Broadway performances: John Proctor is the Villain, & Juliet, The Outsiders, and The Great Gatsby Musical.

There is nothing more unique than the incredible opportunities given to BICS students thanks to their small class sizes and dedicated staff. This year's New York trip was just one of many incredible adventures for BICS students.

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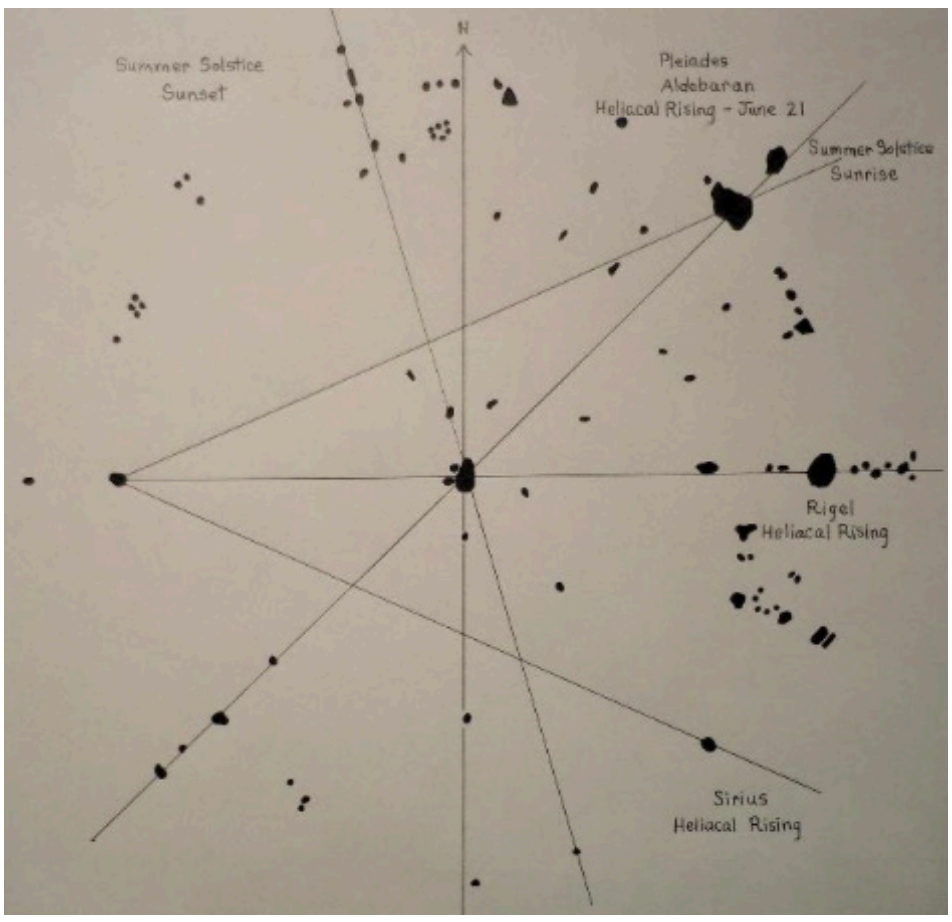
STONE CIRCLE

By Melissa Wiatrolik

This story begins in the late 1980's with the finding of a large Stone Circle on Beaver Island. Beaver Island is the largest island of the Beaver Island Archipelago and is located in northern Lake Michigan. The islands were known as the Iles de Castor (Islands of Beaver) by the French and home of the Amikwa Indians.

The site has been investigated by archaeologists in the past in terms of archeological significance with the help of tribal elders. The area holds cultural ceremonial significance to the Natives that continue to carry the ceremonies within the area every solstice. These features as described are a group of stones, some large boulders, centered on a rock that seemed to have unusual carvings. Some of the rocks had holes, scribed lines, and other interesting features—in particular, the image of sheaves of feathers. When news of the resulting investigation reached the media, the artifact became known as "The Stone Circle."

A period of claims and counterclaims followed. On one hand, it was thought that a dark material underneath a few of the stones which were temporarily tipped was burned organic material, which was said to indicate that the area was cleared by fire before the stones were placed.



Therefore, it was argued that the stones were placed in this particular pattern. And the pattern was said to demonstrate astronomical orientations. A theory was put forth that this arrangement was constructed well over a thousand years ago, by people who preceded the Native Americans of historical time.

However, it is generally accepted that this configuration has had Native American ceremonial uses for some time onto the present. Some people believe there are other landscape artifacts nearby which are more likely to be authenticated, such as an arc-shaped stone pile matching a placement found near Alpena, and the "Circle of Chiefs," a smaller rock circle. It is logical to assume that Beaver Island was inhabited by various Native American peoples, to varying degrees and at various times. Until a thorough site examination is conducted of the entire Island, we can only guess as to what, if anything, these previous habitations left behind.

For further information or learn more contact Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 231-242-1400 or visit their website https://amikcircle.com/ or https://www.beaverisland.net/Projects/The_Stone_Circle/the_stone_circle.htm

TWO NEW TEXANS IN TOWN

Two Texans have moved to the Emerald Isle. Welcome them, two brothers—with sincerity and caution. Only approach if invited—You've been warned!

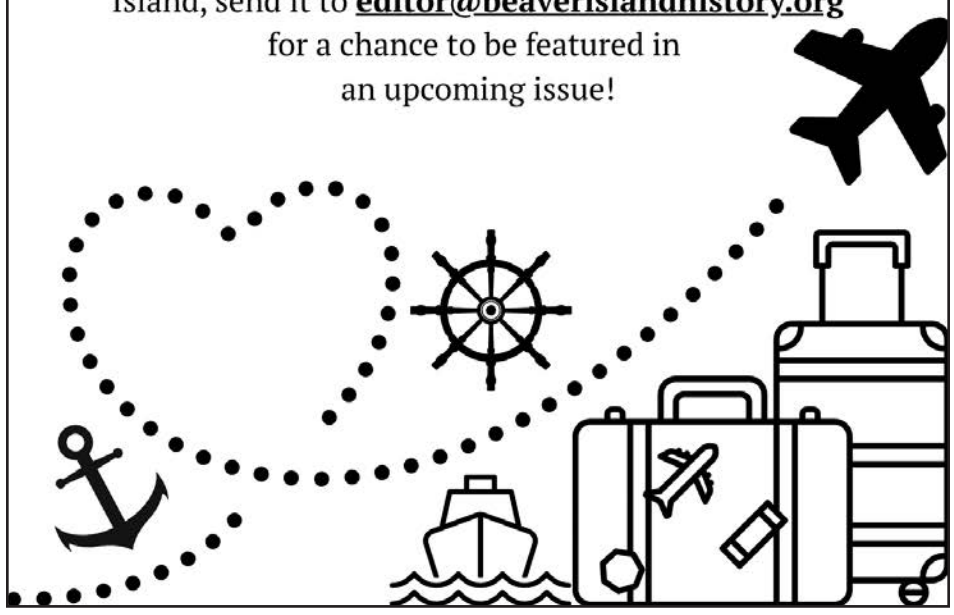
Pictured are two Texas Longhorns named Socks and Boots.

SHARE YOUR TRAVEL MOMENTS

As you make your way to and from the Island this busy season, don't forget to take some pictures! It's an unspoken Island tradition to snap a quick photo of your travels, whether you're soaring in the sky or cruising across Lake Michigan.

Whether you're a longtime resident or a first-time visitor, your perspective matters. So, while you're soaking in the scenery and enjoying the journey, get out your camera or phone and snap a moment to share with our community.

If you have a photo of your 2025 travels to Beaver Island, send it to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue!



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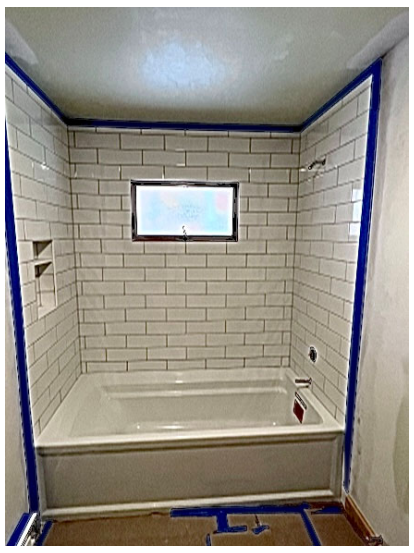

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MORE THAN A TRADITION: BEAVER ISLAND 4TH OF JULY

By Sophie McDonough

The Fourth of July celebration has been a cherished event on the Island for many years. The earliest evidence I've found in the archives dates back to 1928! Consisting of races, chicken dinners, fireworks, and a dance till midnight, traditions have definitely changed over the years. In 1932, almost 93 years ago, the tradition of the iconic parade began. Originally part of the Homecoming celebration, the parade was moved to July 4th by Marge Wagner after enthusiasm over the parade had diminished. It is now the staple of the holiday today, along with fireworks that can be seen all along the harbor.

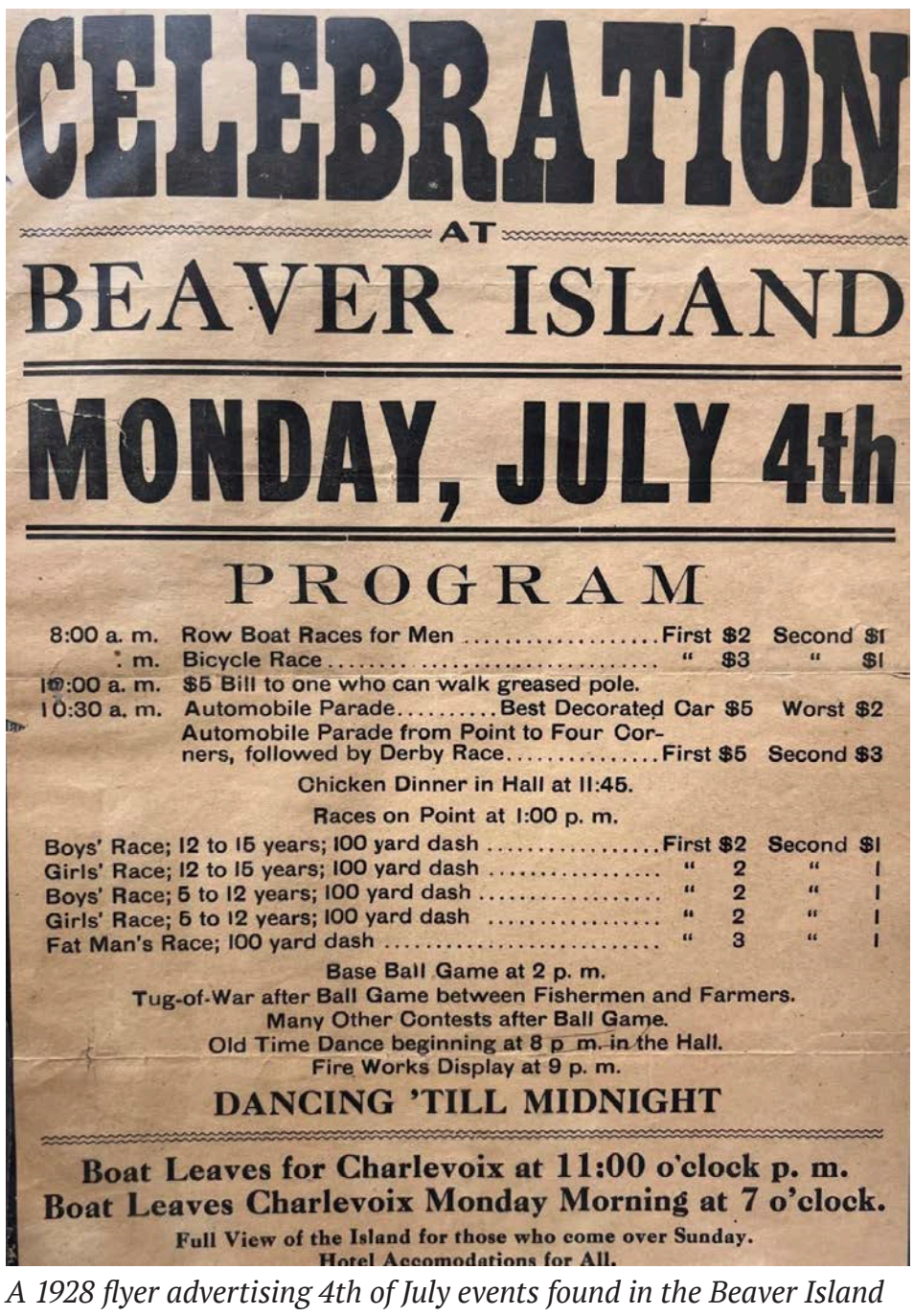
Of course all of these events are celebrated with the many tourists and family that come up during this time. Every year many of my aunts, uncles, and cousins come up to the Island to celebrate the Fourth. I always enjoy going down to the boat throughout the week of the Fourth and greeting my family, along with the many visitors. The boat is overflowing with people, and so is the dock!

Sophie McDonough and mother, Theresa McDonough, pictured on a family float in 2013.

Every family that comes to the Island has seen the parade or even been in it at one point. My family used to make a float every year, which was pulled by my dad's tractor. In 2013 we had made a float for the theme which had us decked out in Fourth of July colors. My dad pulled the float through the parade with his tractor, like he had done for many years. Making our way through the parade, we threw candy at anyone who was willing to catch it. We were turning up the hill to the back highway on Gallagher Road. At the top of the road is the Townships Cemetery, but at the bottom is a boat launch right into the harbor. We were almost up the hill when, for whatever reason, the float unhooked from the tractor! I remember my mom was screaming at my dad; however, the tractor engine was too loud for him to hear! I looked around as I saw my cousins jumping off, and that's when I realized we were headed straight towards the boat launch and into the water! As I'm developing the fear of water, people appeared holding rocks in their hands. They took the rocks and jammed them under the tires of our float to stop it from moving. We were saved! We hooked the float back up and kept going around! Luckily no other floats were too close behind us so no one else got hurt, but definitely a memorable story for the Fourth of July.

I hope everyone enjoys the festivities this year, and stays safe during the parade!

A historic photograph of a 4th of July celebration found in the Beaver Island Historical Society archives.



CELEBRATION
AT
BEAVER ISLAND
MONDAY, JULY 4th

PROGRAM

8:00 a. m.	Row Boat Races for Men	First	$2	Second	$1
[illegible] m.	Bicycle Race	"	$3	"	$1
10:00 a. m.	$5 Bill to one who can walk greased pole.				
10:30 a. m.	Automobile Parade	Best Decorated Car	$5	Worst	$2
	Automobile Parade from Point to Four Corners, followed by Derby Race	First	$5	Second	$3

Chicken Dinner in Hall at 11:45.

Races on Point at 1:00 p. m.

Boys' Race; 12 to 15 years; 100 yard dash	First	$2	Second	$1
Girls' Race; 12 to 15 years; 100 yard dash	"	2	"	1
Boys' Race; 5 to 12 years; 100 yard dash	"	2	"	1
Girls' Race; 5 to 12 years; 100 yard dash	"	2	"	1
Fat Man's Race; 100 yard dash	"	3	"	1

Base Ball Game at 2 p. m.
Tug-of-War after Ball Game between Fishermen and Farmers.
Many Other Contests after Ball Game.
Old Time Dance beginning at 8 p m. in the Hall.
Fire Works Display at 9 p. m.

DANCING 'TILL MIDNIGHT

Boat Leaves for Charlevoix at 11:00 o'clock p. m.
Boat Leaves Charlevoix Monday Morning at 7 o'clock.

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A 1928 flyer advertising 4th of July events found in the Beaver Island Historical Society archives.

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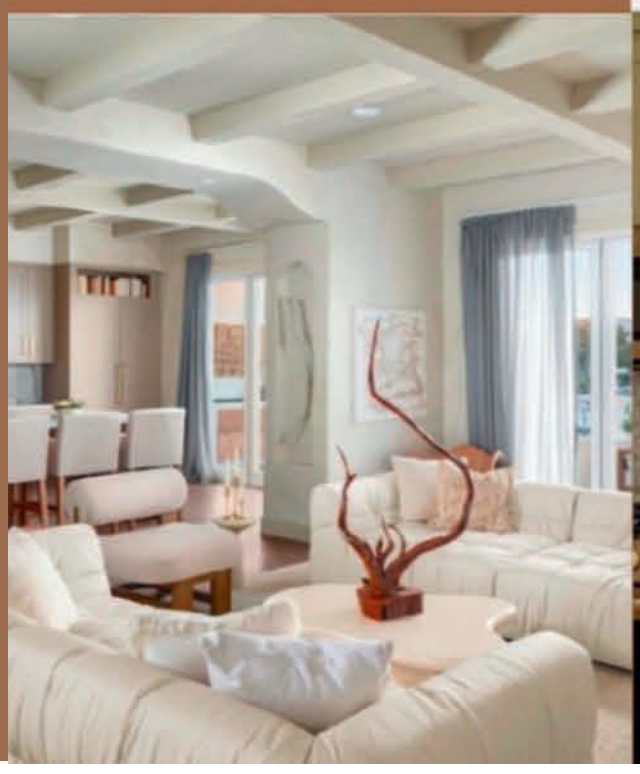

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

By Robert Cole

July at your Community Center is focused on a full roster of music and magic, highlighted below. For more information on our regular programs and ticket purchases, visit the Community Calendar and Tickets page at *biccenter.org*. We begin with a rocking concert on the 5th by the Orbitsuns—the Motor City's finest purveyors of low down and dirty outlaw country. The band, led by vocalist Vinnie Dombrowski (of Sponge) and completed by Jimmy Paluzzi on drums, Bob Hecker on bass, Jeremy "Leroy" Bilitz on guitar and Liz Fornal on vocals, are one of the hardest working in Detroit. The Orbitsuns are as outrageous as Iggy Pop, as blue collar as Bob Seger, as dark as Alice Cooper, as revolutionary as the MC5, and as boundary-crossing as Kid Rock. It's "fire n' brimstone, honky-tonk-hoe-down-from-Hell, cow-punk music".

On July 8 the first installment of the *Beaver Island Jazz Series* is a Candlelit Concert showcasing musical duo Edye Evans Hyde and Mike Hyde. Hundreds of candles will surround these talented musicians onstage, creating an intimate setting for this vocal/guitar duo specializing in jazz and light pop. Be ready to bask in the comfort of classic gems from the Great American Songbook and choice selections from various other genres. Then on June 12 comes Jennifer Westwood and the Handsome Devils. Westwood and guitarist Dylan Dunbar share an affection for gospel, Texas blues, Stax and Muscle Shoals era artists—and both have family roots tying them inextricably to the sounds of Appalachia. Jennifer and Dylan, along with a band of A-listers and underdogs from Detroit bars to the Grammy stage have built a family of fans from New York to Texas, and soon Beaver Island.

July 16 has *North Country Opera: Live at The Ark*, a filmed recording of the iconic folk musical that has delighted thousands of Michiganders for over 40 years, making a Beaver Island debut this summer in a fund-raiser for the Beaver Island Music Festival and the Beaver Island Community Center. It is the north country's own version of a timeless love story: a young man falls in love with the beauty of the northern woods and rivers—and a woman he meets there. Written by the late Michigan folk artist Jay Stielstra and directed by Ron Miller, the cast includes a host of veteran Ann Arbor performers, including some with long-time Beaver Island connections.

On July 21 is Comedy Magician Trino's show, *Trino's Magic House Party,* offering a night of family fun, laughter, and magic—perfect for all ages! We were selected as one of thirty stops on Trino's Magic House Party Tour, in celebration of Trino's 30th Birthday. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind event. Please consider making a contribution to the artist following the performance.

The Twenty-Fourth Anniversary Season of *Baroque on Beaver* launches formally on July 26 with an Opening Night concert led by esteemed concert pianist Jaeden Izik-Dzurko, winner of the 2024 Leeds Competition in Recital. That's followed on the 28th by *New and Next: Contemporary Classical with Robert Nordling*. It's a dive into unexpected, inviting, and incomparable cutting-edge classical music led by Music Director Robert Nordling, and performed by Baroque's brilliant artists. July 31 leads with the Baroque on Beaver Festival Orchestra, led by pianist Jaeden Izik-Dzurko performing Mozart Piano Concerto Number 25 in C Minor.

See you at the Community Center!

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MONDAY, JULY 7
3 PM THE WILD ROBOT
5 PM ROBOTICS DEMONSTRATION
6 PM Companion
Jennifer Westwood AND THE HANDSOME DEVILS
JULY 12
7:30 PM
JULY 16
7:30 PM
NORTH COUNTRY OPERA
40TH ANNIVERSARY REVIVAL
THE MOVIE: RECORDED LIVE AT THE ARK
FOLK MUSICAL BY JAY STIELSTRA
DIRECTED BY RON MILLER
TUESDAY, JULY 22
6:00 PM
LET'S GET QUIZZICAL! TRIVIA NIGHT
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JULY 26TH AT 7:30PM
WITH JAEDEN IZIK-DZURKO, PIANO
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Classical music on island time.
ROBERT NORDLING HOSTS NEW & NEXT
JULY 28TH AT 7:30PM
BAROQUE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
WITH JAEDEN IZIK-DZURKO, PIANO
JULY 31ST AT 7:30PM

BIPAA 2025 YOUNG SOLOIST COMPETITION WINNERS NAMED

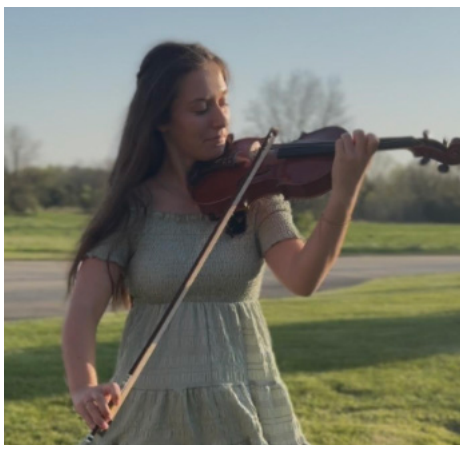
By Matt Thomas

We are pleased to announce the three prize-winners of our third Young Soloist Competition. The competition is open to all high-school age instrumental soloists (including home-schoolers) who reside and attend school in Michigan. As a result of a generous commitment by sponsors Bev and Larry Seiford, three cash prizes have been awarded for the grand prize-winner and two honorable mention winners. The grand prize-winner, cellist Violet Weizer, will perform the Robert Schumann cello concerto with the Baroque on Beaver Festival Orchestra at this summer's 2025 Festival on Saturday, August 2. "The level of performance was extremely high and the competition was a challenge to judge. All three of these young ladies submitted wonderful performances and can be quite proud," said Baroque's Associate Conductor Nathan Bieber, who will conduct the piece on August 2.

INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S WINNERS:

Violet Weizer began studying cello at age four with her current teacher, Andrea Yun, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She also began studying piano at age seven. Violet has played cello with several youth orchestras, including the Interlochen Arts Camp Orchestras, and most recently has been a member of the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra in Ann Arbor. Since age seven she has played in many string quartets such as the Silver Strings Quartet, the Papayas String Quartet, and the Driving Quartet. She has attended summer music festivals for cello at Interlochen Arts Camp, ARIA International Music Festival, Ascent Cello Festival, Philadelphia International Music Festival, Madeline Island Chamber Music Festival; this summer she will also attend Domaine Forget International Music Festival. Violet has won prizes in the King's Peak International Music Competition and the Rosalie Edwards Youth Music Competition.

In her free time, Violet also enjoys competitive figure skating, photography, and baking. She recently graduated from high school at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor in June 2025 and will attend Columbia University in New York City this fall.



Pictured: Elizabeth Beland

Elizabeth Beland has been studying the violin for nine years with Tigran Shiganyan at the Flint School for Performing Arts, where she also plays in the Dort Honors String Quartet and the Flint Youth Symphony. She is currently entering her senior year at Swartz Creek High School as a 17-year-old. Outside of playing the violin, she enjoys shopping, reading, and playing piano.

Elizabeth Slabaugh graduated from Rockford High School this spring. Elizabeth learned how to play the French horn six years ago and played in many ensembles at Rockford High School; she ended her time there as principal horn in their top ensemble. Additionally, Ms. Slabaugh was a member of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and her State of Michigan Solo and Ensemble performances earned the highest marks for both solo and chamber music. Elizabeth would like to thank her parents and brothers for their support along with her lesson teacher Mary Beth Orr for always "pushing me towards new opportunities".

Pictured: Elizabeth Slabaugh

Pictured: Violet Weizer

For more information on this year's Festival and the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance please visit *www.baroqueonbeaver.org.*

Tickets for this year's festival are now on sale at *www.tickets.biccenter.org/.*

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance
INTRODUCES
2025 Event Series
Baroque ON BEAVER
Robert Nordling, Music Director
Thursday, July 24 through Saturday, August 2
FEATURED ARTISTS TO INCLUDE:
Jaeden Izik-Dzurko, piano;
VoxGR Choral Ensemble.
Tuesday, July 8 | 7:30
BEAVER ISLAND JAZZ SERIES: EDYE & MARK
In partnership with the BIC Center
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Ticketed Reserved Seating Only
Wednesday, July 30 | 3:00-5:00
BEAVER ISLAND JAZZ SERIES: THE ST JAMES JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Happy Hour Jazz Standards
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Thursday, August 14 | 7:30
BEAVER ISLAND JAZZ SERIES: CLAUDIA SCHMIDT
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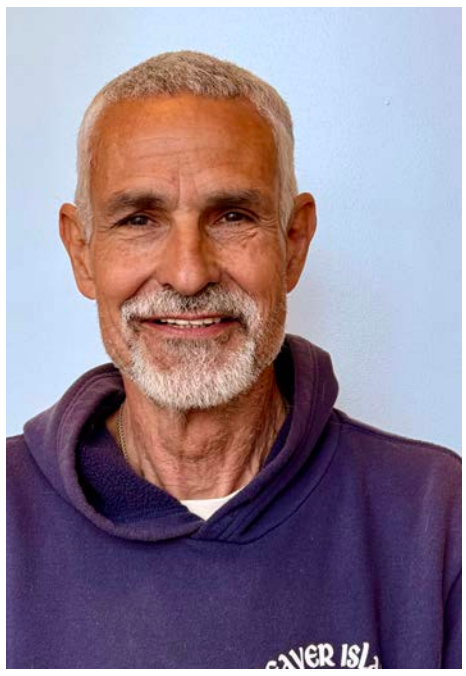
By Lois Stipp



Joe is a cornerstone of the Beaver Island community, dedicating his time, skills, and heart to making a difference. His journey from a seasoned Los Angeles homicide detective to an island resident showcases his adaptability and commitment to service. While his initial plan was to retire in solitude at a remote island lighthouse, fate had a different path in store—leading him to a full-time role as a deputy on Beaver Island, an incredible bit of luck for the community.

Joe's contributions are vast and varied. Not only did he serve in law enforcement he recently graduated from the Medical First Responder program here on Beaver Island. He now works at the marina, assists in township maintenance, and mentors students as an assistant basketball coach at Beaver Island Community School. His dedication extends beyond work—he serves on the board of the Christian Church, co-chairs the Senior Advisory Committee, volunteers at the Beaver Island Community Center, and is an integral part of the Monday Men's group. His kindness is felt deeply by seniors, animals, and anyone who crosses his path.

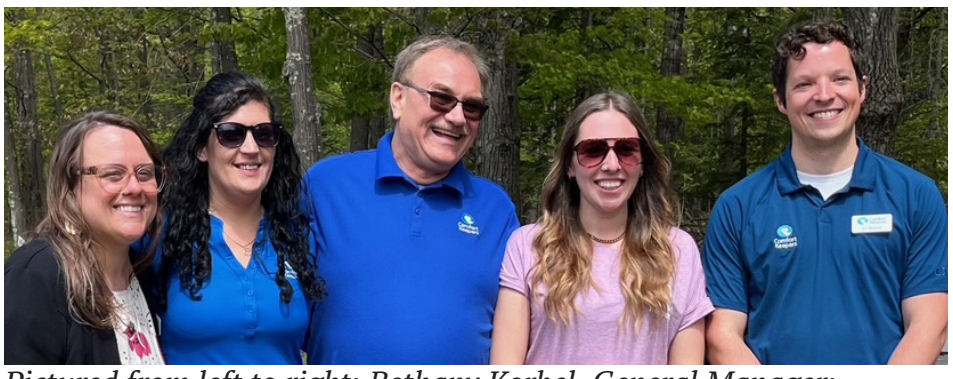
Through it all, Joe remains a beacon of positivity, always ready with a warm smile and a sincere "thank you" to those around him. This time, it's our turn to express our gratitude.

COMFORT KEEPERS LAUNCH IN-HOME CARE SERVICES
By George Broder

On May 29 at the Health Center, three trained, certified caregivers were introduced to an appreciative crowd of seniors gathered to learn how to take advantage of them.

Comfort Keepers - Traverse City / Petoskey has been in business for 20 years. They help families bring peace of mind and dignity to their loved ones by offering personalized, compassionate care at home. Whether it's a friendly face to ease loneliness, support with personal hygiene to maintain independence, nutritious meals prepared with care, or safe transportation to appointments—Comfort Keepers is there every step of the way. For those with complex needs, Comfort Keepers offers advanced care solutions tailored to their unique health situations. And with technology support, they make it easier than ever to stay connected and safe. At the heart of everything they do is one goal: helping your loved one thrive where they feel most comfortable—at home.

"We're very delighted, thrilled to be able to bring our experience and expertise to Beaver Island so residents can receive the help they need right where they live." said Bethany Korbel, General Manager. "We're confident we can help many seniors here continue to live independently, with vitality and strength."

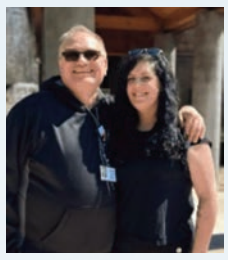


Pictured from left to right: Bethany Korbel, General Manager; Briana Maudrie; Lonnie Allen; Frankie Lamb; and Ian Straley, Territory Manager.

Now *Caring* on Beaver Island!

Islanders Serving Islanders.

We're excited and proud to begin serving the island with compassionate home care and in-home assisted living.



Beaver Island residents, Lonnie, Briana, and Frankie have received their health aide certifications and are looking forward to serving our island community.

- Personal Care
- Companionship
- Housekeeping
- Errands & Transportation
- Delicious Meals
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
- Medication Oversight
- Private Duty Nursing

Comfort Keepers® | In-home Care for Seniors

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FURBABIES OF BEAVER ISLAND

By Susi "Little Susi" Myers

TWO LITTLE CATS

In 2014, after spending a few years living in Williamston, Michigan, I moved in with my grandparents on Beaver Island to finish my schooling at Beaver Island Community School. My grandparents, Mike and Susi Myers, have pretty much always had a cat or two around the house. But when I was nearing the end of my high school career, we got two adorable kittens, which I named Katniss and Primrose after one of my favorite book series, The Hunger Games.

Now the cats are six years old and great companions to my Nana and Papa. They have been dutiful mousers since they moved into the house.

As the granddaughter of Susi Myers, I've often been called "Little Susi"—a nickname I carry proudly.

BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION STARTS BROADBAND STUDY

By Bill Reed

Residents of Beaver Island will soon be able to observe initial work being done to bring the island's telecom system up to the 21st century standard. Crews from Advanced Communications & Data (ACD) will spend about a week on the island beginning shortly after the 4th of July holiday. They will be here under contract to the Beaver Island Association for on-site survey work integral to the BIF municipal fiber network feasibility study.

ACD's work on the Island will be largely to verify and refine mapping data already procured from federal geographic survey data, according to Elijah Gregg, the ACD Program Director in charge of the Beaver Island Project. A crew of 3-5 people, including Mr. Gregg, will circulate around island roads taking photos, measuring distances and generally gathering supplemental data required to design a network that will efficiently reach "every occupied space" on the Island. The mapping data will ultimately be used to design a physical buried cable layout that, combined with a logical network design, can be confidently used to establish a budget for the BIF project.

ACD, a privately held firm based in Lansing, operates fiber optic networks throughout the upper Midwest. Their Michigan operations include FTTH networks in Cadillac, Reed City, Big Rapids and Lyndon Township.

The ACD crews will be leaving door hangers to let you know that they've been by. If you do spot one of their distinctively marked vehicles on the road, be sure to teach them the Beaver Island wave.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - JUNE 11, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at the Boyne Valley Township Hall on June 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Six Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-074, County Expenditures.

Motion tabled Resolution #25-075, Beaver Island Meal Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-076, FY26 Crime Victims Rights Grant.

Commissioner Hankins moved to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(a) at 10:07 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Christensen.

Commissioner Hankins moved to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(a) at 10:51 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Christensen.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 11:04 a.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

BEAVER ISLAND SIGHTINGS

Attention readers: If you have caught a glimpse of Beaver Island around Michigan, the USA, or even across the globe, snap a quick picture and share it with the Northern Islander along with the location you saw it for a shout-out. And, bring your picture into the Old Mormon Print Shop for a prize!

Beaver Island is everywhere!

Send pictures to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org**

A little piece of Beaver Island was spotted in Arlington, Virginia, by Mike Broder

PROTECTING SPECIES WHILE ESTABLISHING THE FUTURE

By Jennifer Greenburg, PFN VP of Government Affairs

PFN'S NTIA MIDDLE MILE GRANT: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MICHIGAN PENINSULAS AND CRITICAL CROSSINGS (IMPACC)

At Peninsula Fiber Network, part of our mission with Project IMPACC is making sure we protect the natural beauty and wildlife of Michigan while we expand broadband access. As we navigate the depths of Lake Michigan, we will consider many environmental and technical aspects in the process.

Pictured: Monarch butterfly

We've worked closely with state and federal experts to survey habitats near Beaver Island and across our project area. Our goal is to avoid sensitive spots where threatened or endangered species—like the Piping Plover, the Monarch Butterfly, and the Pitcher's Thistle—call home. These threatened and endangered species all play a crucial role in local ecosystems and Michigan's rich biodiversity, and PFN is determined to preserve them.

Pictured: Piping Plover

Minimization efforts include routing cables away from Beaver Island habitats and sensitive areas, as well as conducting extensive environmental research and professional assessments before beginning any construction. If an endangered species is encountered during the installation process, the team has a set of efficient procedures to follow, including halting work, notifying environmental authorities and readjusting the construction plan to avoid any future disturbances.

By installing cables along existing roadways, PFN minimizes its impact on undisturbed natural areas. This strategy better protects Beaver Island's wildlife habitats while demonstrating that environmental responsibility and project efficiency can go hand-in-hand. We are doing all of the research and preparation to begin Project IMPACC so we're ready to hit the ground running once it's time to begin terrestrial construction in 2026 and underwater construction in 2027.

Pictured: Pitcher's Thistle

For more information about PFN and our work on the IMPACC project visit *https://www.pfnllc.net/*.

AN APPEAL TO DOG WALKERS

Recently, dog waste bags have been found multiple times in the Little Traverse Conservancy's Stanhope Family Preserve.

This particular bag was found on the lower trail behind the Gull Harbor Ponds.

This is your reminder to please pick up your dog waste bags.

Got Wood?

Get all your lumber needs at the
Beaver Island Lumber Company
25995 Main Street, Beaver Island
Beaverislandlumber.com
231-448-2045

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